Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Our Vision –
A world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for Earth are central to our lives.

Our Purpose –
To inspire and support personal, congregational, and Association practices that honor and sustain Earth and all life.

Welcome to a community of Unitarian Universalists who are spiritually nurtured by our relationship with the Earth and who choose to offer the gifts of our love, our time, our energy, and our resources to build a just and enduring Earth home.

Climate · Environment · Justice

In the spirit of Native American consideration for the “seventh generation,” our decisions should recognize impacts over time that will affect future generations.

We must act with foresight and fairness now to ensure the future well-being of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

2008-2009 Annual Report
A Year of Transition and Transformation

The past year for UU Ministry for Earth has been one of significant change and challenge. The transfer of the Green Sanctuary program to the UUA along with the economic downturn called for creative new ways of thinking to respond to the challenges. The organization’s board, staff, and volunteers have responded with innovative and transformative new ways of thinking about and planning for the work at hand.

Transitions

Green Sanctuary Program

The Green Sanctuary Program has been successfully transferred into the UUA’s hands, with care and assistance from Rev. Katherine Jesch, and UU Ministry for Earth volunteers who serve on review committees for candidates.

UUA Partnership

A strong partnership with the UUA has been forged as a result, and Green Sanctuary coordinator Robin Nelson has provided creative and committed support for the program.

Staffing Change

After some significant and difficult consideration by the board, the Director of Environmental Ministry position was eliminated, and Rev. Katherine Jesch has moved on from her staff position with UU Ministry for Earth after ten years of leadership, ministry, and service. We honor Rev. Jesch as she enters a discernment process for the next part of her ministerial journey.

New Office Space, Manager

The UU Ministry for Earth office was settled at First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, and office manager Sabrina Harle was hired to provide administrative support for members and others interested in our ministry.

Technology Upgrades

Additionally, we were able to streamline our services to members with our new database. We have also just contracted with a website design firm to completely redesign our website to increase accessibility and networking potential. Look for these exciting changes in the next few months.
Transition and Transformation —  

*continued*

**Transformations**

Even in the face of the significant changes noted above, UU Ministry for Earth has managed to accomplish a great deal.

**Tools for Earth Ministry**

- **A new religious education resource**
  Sounds of Nature is now available. This is the second Children’s RE curriculum donated by member and Guardian of the Future award winner Stefani Scott of Stony Brook, New York.

- The **second annual Earth Day packet** was created in collaboration with UU Service Committee and the UUA Advocacy and Witness program, providing inspirational resources for congregations across the country focusing on environmental justice and green jobs. This year, the Packet was also listed as one of three resources available for Earth Day in the Vermont Interfaith Power and Light newsletter. NOTE: The Earth Day Posters featured in this Report may be downloaded from the UUMFE website.

- The **Ethical Eating resource manual** was produced by the Ethical Eating task force, including our liaison Vicki Talbert from Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. This resource was produced as part of the Study/Action Issue process in collaboration with the UUA Commission on Social Witness.

- **Newsletters, e-newsletters and Earth and Spirit homilies** on our website provide information, inspiration and updates throughout the year.
Innovative Projects

• An Environmental Justice resource is on the drawing boards. As a result of a working paper and our planning process, we came to a new understanding of the need for collective wisdom and action on this important issue, and are creating core teams and a process for UUs across the country to share projects and wisdom.

• General Assembly programming
  Passport for Environmental Justice is a collaboration with UU Service Committee and the UUA offices of Advocacy and Witness and Congregational Services to encourage personal habits of sustainability and participation in EJ workshops.

  Mark Winne, author of Closing the Food Gap, is being featured in a workshop presented in collaboration with Beacon Press.

New Vision for UUMFE

A new creative and collaborative model of Earth Ministry for our faith is being created, and details are forthcoming soon.

We are deepening our collaborative relationships within the faith, we’ve created a new model for networking and expanding the base of collective wisdom. No longer “the voice of UU environmentalism”, we plan to lift up a chorus of voices from within the faith through modern web and communication tools, district level engagement, and outreach to new contributors within, and outside of the faith.

Support from Members and Partners

• A grant from the UUA was integral to producing the second annual Earth Day Packet for congregations. The grant enabled us to offer a DVD of the 2008 Ware Lecture by Van Jones at a very reduced price and distribute free printed Packets to member congregations.

• We have the opportunity for a second grant from the UUA for ongoing networking on the district level to promote Earth Ministry in the faith.

• The Parents for the Planet program, created in 2008, provides a means for those who want to provide financial support for Earth Ministry beyond membership. We now have fifteen Parents, and will continue this program into the future.

Thank you for your work in the world. Your work and faith are needed now more than ever in this changing world, and UU Ministry for Earth has exciting plans for making it easy for you to be involved. You membership and donations are gratefully accepted to support this important work in our communities.

For the Earth,
Barbara Ford
Chair, Board of Directors
Guardian of the Future Award

The first annual UUMFE Guardian of the Future Award that was presented at General Assembly 2008. The honoree was

Stefani Scott
UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, NY

Congregational Eco-Hero Awards

In 2008 UU congregations honored individuals in their congregations who were “walking the walk” in large and small ways to create a sustainable future. In addition, several congregations chose to nominate their honoree for the national Guardian of the Future Award. The nominees were:

Dennis Briley, UU Church West, Brookfield, WI
Susan Brown, Dearborn, MI, Church of the Larger Fellowship
Jan Clement, Accotink UU Church, Burke, VA
Marge Gonzalez, UU Church of Ft. Myers, FL
Eldon Haines, UU Church in Eugene, OR
Rich and Elaine Held, UU Congregation of Monmouth County, Lincroft, NJ
Roger Johnson, UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA
Bruce Langmuir, First Parish of Sudbury, MA
Bill Martin, UU Congregation of the Upper Valley, Norwich, VT.
Judy Moores, UU Church of Davis, CA
Bob Ringlee, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY
Vivian Viloria-Fisher, UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, NY
Sylvia Weaver, UU Church of St. John, Virgin Islands

UUMFE, Members and Congregations Recognized by Sierra Club

The 2008 Sierra Club Faith in Action Report featured the work of UUMFE members Terry Wiggins, Dr. Chad Tolman and their congregations, plus congregations in Chicago, Illinois and Middlebury, Vermont. Also, UU Ministry for Earth was included in the list of National Resources in the Report.
Special Acknowledgements

To the members who contributed more than the basic membership, we are especially grateful. We have listed two groups below.

♦ The generous Parents for the Planet supporters
♦ UU congregations who supported UU Ministry for Earth beyond the annual membership level with special collections, split-the-plate collections and donations May 2008 - May 2009.

Parents for the Planet

Marney Bruce, Bethesda, MD
Barbara Ford, Portland, OR
Denise Frizzell, Hudson, MA
P. Roger Gillette, Salem OR
Irene Graff and Deb Hamano, Long Beach, CA
Ben Hammett, Palo Alto, CA
Eileen Hiney and Frank Yeatman, Bridgewater, MA
Bob and Irene Keim, Bushnell, FL
Ann and David May, Houston, TX

Ed and Ellen McClaren, Reston, VA
Kemp and Nancy King Smith, Shaker Heights, OH
Charles and Vicky Talbert, Pleasant Prairie, WI
Karen And Ramon Urbano, Woodland, CA
Ann and Mark Veldman, Bloomington, IN
Bruce and Terry Wiggins, Milwaukee, WI

Honor Congregations

Mt. Vernon Unit. Ch., Alexandria, VA
UU Church of Arlington, VA
Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, MD
River Road Unit. Church, Bethesda, MD
UU Church of Boulder, CO
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church-UU, Charlottesville, VA
First Parish in Cleveland, OH
Second Cong. Society, Concord, NH
UU Church of Davis, CA

First Parish in Framingham, MA
UU Congregation of Frederick, MD
Starr King UU Church, Hayward, CA
Emerson Unitarian Ch., Houston, TX
All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO
First Parish of Lexington, KY
First Unitarian Soc. of Madison, WI
UU Society: East, Manchester, CT
First Parish Church Unitarian, Northborough, MA
UU Cong. of Fairfax, Oakton, VA
UU Church of Palo Alto, CA
First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR
UU Congregation of Princeton, NJ
UU Church in Reston, VA
Rainier Valley UU Cong., Seattle, WA
Pathways Church, Southlake, TX
UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes, Tamworth, NH
First Parish of Watertown, MA
UU Society of Wellesley Hills, MA
Financial Summary, July 2007 -- April 2008

**Income**
- Memberships: 12,860.00
- Donations & Grant *: 34,634.79
- Resource Sales: 6,034.40
- Program Delivery & UUA Consulting Fees: 2,087.50
- Interest Income: 26.24

**Total Income**: 55,642.93

**Expense**
- UUA Affiliate Fee: 100.00
- Internet Fees/Domain Registration /Website Development: 1,640.50
- Office Supplies and Equipment: 534.88
- Postage and Shipping: 324.64
- Board Meetings & Conference Expense *: 6,033.18
- Telephone: 578.42
- Newsletter: 974.12
- Fundraising/Member Development: 266.40
- Administrative Expenses: 1,088.07
- General Informational Material: 38.48
- Resources: 1,270.59
- General Assembly: 1,340.00
- Green Sanctuary Program: 254.20
- Rent (Portland Office): 5,448.08
- Payroll Expenses (p/t minister, office mgr, clerk) **: 43,237.84
- Grant Expenses, other than salary: 1,520.84

**Total Expense**: 64,650.24

Bank account balances were $33,964.39 on April 30.

For this year, total projected income is $63,663.48, and projected expenses are $76,939.75 for a net loss of $14,797.11.

The projected income figure is 70% of budget, whereas the projected expense figure is 85% of the amount budgeted.

*Includes 5,142 for In-Kind Board Travel to two meetings, remainder is staff travel expense.

** $4,500 is being paid from grant.
Directors, Staff and Volunteers

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Karen Urbano
Oakland, CA

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
1034 SW 13th Ave., Portland, OR 97205
www.uuministryforearth.org office@uuministryforearth.org
(503) 595-9392

Biodiversity & Environmental Justice

Green Jobs - Environment - Justice

Treasured Volunteers

Linda Collyer
Accountant
Potomac, MD

Barbara A. Hynak
Attorney
Arlington, VA

Stefani Scott
Author
Stony Brook, NY

Karen Holmgren
Graphic Artist
Oceanside, CA

Jeff Norris
Webmaster
Chicago, IL

Vicki Talbert
Ethical Eating Team
Pleasant Prairie, WI