

## **UUCR Green Sanctuary Action Plan**

*(Approved by the UUCR Board of Trustees on 6/25/12 as required by the Green Sanctuary Team Charter)*

### ***Worship and Celebration Projects***

#### **1. Project Title:** Environmentally Themed Worship Services

**Project Description:** Two or more environmentally themed adult worship services will be held each year. One for Earth Day focusing on stewardship and a second summer service focused on earth centered spirituality. Children's and Youth worship will also have one or two services per year with an environmental theme of their choice.

Special evening services to recognize and celebrate the Winter and Summer solstice as well as Autumnal and Spring (Vernal) equinox will be continued.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Cynthia Thurston, Liaison, Adult Worship Committee

#### **2. Project Title:** Celebration of Nature Through Art

**Project Description:** Seek out local environmental artists and invite them to display their artwork at the church as part of the aesthetics program. Recently the Washington Post Magazine featured Bruce McNeil, a photographer with the Anacostia River School of Photography.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Laura Huff, Chair, Aesthetics Committee

### ***Religious Education Projects***

#### **3. Project Title:** Environmental Films and Book Discussion

**Project Description:** Institute a series of Friday Night Environmental Films and discussion open to the public. Four films per year will be offered. The films will be advertised through local listservs including Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light (GWIPL) and at the local community college in order to connect with others around common issues, build community, and demonstrate UUCR's activism regarding environmental issues.

Also institute an environmental book discussion in the spring and fall of each year.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Jim Carleton and Cathy Higgins-Bisnett

#### **4. Project Title:** Adopt a Road – Youth Project

**Project Description:** Youth (Senior High, Junior High and 6th grade RE classes) will each determine an environmentally friendly service project of their choosing to perform annually. For the next two years, the Youth have chosen to Adopt a Road. They will periodically pick up trash from along the chosen road and discuss the impact of the trash on the environment. In addition the church will obtain additional publicity by having the church name indicated on the Adopt A Road sign, letting others in the community know of our commitment to the environment.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014  
**Lead:** Jenn Maschal-Lorms, Youth Coordinator

**5. Project Title:** Family Environmental Field Trips

**Project Description:** Organize one environmentally oriented field trip per year on a weekend for children and families for witness and learning, e.g., stream cleanup, gather seeds from native trees. UUCR will participate in Faithfully Picking Up the Potomac coordinated by GWIPL and the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Working with this interfaith partnership we will pick up trash from the Muddy Branch tributary on April 14.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014  
**Lead:** Bennett Rushkoff and Antonio Carrillo

***Environmental Justice***

**6. Project Title:** Environmental Justice Awareness

**Project Description:** Build on the awareness begun in the environmental justice (EJ) course, at UUCR January - March 2012. The class researched UUCR's use of water, food, energy and waste. We learned that we are connected to others even if they are invisible to us, for example, people who live near the mountains that have had their tops removed to get coal for the Dickerson Power Plant that powers UUCR. We'll share insights with the congregation through monthly articles in Quest that will be posted on the website. We will publish/post articles about (a) other congregation's EJ projects to identify ways to partner and build relationships to create a larger impact; and (b) other EJ efforts to inspire us to further action.

**Timeline for Completion:** March 2013  
**Lead:** Terrie Barr

**7. Project Title:** Eco-Justice Partnership

**Project Description:** Partner with Groundwork Anacostia DC, to learn and work with residents of Ward 7 in the District of Columbia to improve their environment by restoring the health of the Anacostia River, improve green spaces, and build relationships. Intergenerational activities will include field trips to learn about current efforts to restore the Anacostia River; service projects such as tree planting, urban gardening, and stream cleanups; and opportunities to partner with youth and adult residents on neighborhood projects.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014  
**Lead:** Terrie Barr and Julie Robinson

**8. Project Title:** Solar Energy Partnership

**Project Description:** Begin improving the ecological health of our community and promote justice for those affected by mountaintop removed coal by exploring the feasibility of installing solar panels on UUCR's roofs to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists (MCSEA), a group of high school students, committed to help raise funds for a community solar project, inspired this effort and are our partners.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** UUCR Solar Working Group

### ***Sustainable Living***

**9. Project Title:** Energy Efficiency and Conservation

**Project Description:** Educate members of the congregation and the community on the benefits of conserving and using less energy as a personal action each of us can take to help address climate change. Assess energy usage for church buildings and look for low cost improvements for high return on investment. Partner with GWIPL to host a Home Energy Workshop for homeowners in the congregation and in the community to learn about energy saving improvements.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Jon Landenburger

**10. Project Title: Renewable Energy (Wind)**

**Project Description:** Advocate for renewable energy at the state and federal level and educate homeowners in the congregation and in the community on switching to renewal sources of energy as means to address climate change. Advocate for building an offshore wind farm off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland by partnering with Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), UU Legislative Ministry, GWIPL, etc. Host advocacy meetings at the church. Provide information on how individual members can sign up for wind power.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Mary Lanigan

**11. Project Title:** REduce, REcycle, REuse = RESPECT and Green Purchasing

**Project Description:** Improve/assess/educate on recycling, reduction of goods, and re-use to reduce the amount of trash and plastics both at the church and in the home. Transition to using reusable plates, bowls, glasses at church as feasible. Complete transition dependent on remodeling and expanding 55 year old kitchen. Explore purchase of green cleaning supplies, paper products, etc. at the church. Educate people about sources of green products for the home.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Cathy Higgins-Bisnett and Carol Reinsberg

**12. Project Title:** Water Conservation, Sustainable Landscaping, Ecological Gardening

**Project Description:** Educate members of the congregation and the community on the benefits of using sustainable features in landscaping as a means to conserve water, reduce runoff, benefit wildlife, and minimize damage to streams. Assess church property for installation of features such as rain gardens, additional rain barrels, and native plantings. Educate members of the congregation and the community about the damage caused by lawn chemicals and provide information about alternatives.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Steve Lapham and Rachel Shaw

**13. Project Title:** Ethical Eating

**Project Description:** Raise awareness and educate people through books, discussions and films about ethical eating and how supporting ethical eating supports our UU values. Explore many aspects of ethical eating including plant-based diet, sustainability, community supported agriculture and environmental justice such as how low income persons on food stamps can eat healthy and sustainably. Offer congregational meals from local produce and products. Use Fair Trade coffee and tea at church.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2014

**Lead:** Gwen Rowe and Alberta Maschal