

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

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

July 18, 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington
Green Sanctuary Initiative
109 Brown's Road
Huntington, NY 11743

Dear Committee,

With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association, Office of Congregation Stewardship Services is very pleased to formally welcome the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington 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 environmental assessment format is adequate. We are excited to see that you have included "15. Revisiting all these areas to see that these systems are working properly." This reflects effort and a commitment to the cause. We are excited to see that you already have a high level of environmental stewardship in your congregation.

Your proposed projects for the Worship and Celebration focus area are appropriate for meeting the Green Sanctuary requirements. In addition, we encourage you to add more environmental themes to your worship on a regular basis – this might be by adding songs, readings, candles, reflections etc and might involve working more with the worship committee and minister.

We really like the idea of Book Discussion Series as your Adult Religious Education project. It will result in an interchange of ideas when folks get together and talk about what they've read – thus making it seem even more real. In your accreditation application, please make sure you include the book titles and how many people participated in the discussions. Your Children's Religious Education project is lovely and we will love to see some of what the children reflect upon this project (via stories, pictures, etc).

Gateway Gardens sounds like a wonderful opportunity for your congregation to "build community, to intermingle people from different neighborhoods and backgrounds, to access the

interdependent we of all existence, and to foster dignity and pride in providing one's own healthy food." We are excited for you and will look forward to updates about how this is coming together, including but not limited to: how the congregation becomes involved long-term and how you involve representatives from the community. Your film series that includes a reception and opportunity for folks to talk about it afterwards can work as an environmental justice project. We'd like to encourage you to think about the 2011 Statement of Conscious Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice when you are planning your refreshments.

Your sustainable living projects are well conceived and straight-forward. We encourage you to monitor results and share the results with your congregation. Additionally, we were wondering if you had recycling containers inside your building as well as outside your building...

Extra Projects are wonderful and we'll love to see if and how they develop. Since you've identified hydrofracking as a potential project you might be interested in showing the documentary *Gasland* and you might also want to get involved in lobbying to stop hydrofracking. The Peace Pole is also exciting and love the idea of using a solar light for it – environmental justice and peace are interwoven as most wars are fought over natural resources.

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!

With Hope for the Earth,

Robin Nelson

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"It's not easy being Green." – Kermit the Frog