

UU Environment Committee, Green Sanctuary Team Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2013

Team members present: Charissa Thacker, Candis Harbison, Al Clare, Cheryl Kellogg, George Stevenson, Mary Thieme, Jo Shaffer, John Shaffer

Meeting began at 11:45 AM. This is the first meeting of the Green Sanctuary Team.

Charissa explained the components of the Green Sanctuary Certification program. The team will start with the Environmental Assessment component.

Charissa suggested that, following the assessment phase, the team engage the congregation in a brainstorming session regarding the specific activities we will pursue as a part of our Action Plan to address the results of the assessment.

The Environmental Assessment has three parts:

- 1) The Energy Audit
- 2) The Congregational Assessment
- 3) The Personal Assessment

Cheryl suggested, and the team agreed, that the Personal Assessment should be referred to as a Household Assessment for our purposes.

Al thought that we should begin by documenting the pro-environmental changes that have recently been made to the building. Jo agreed and added that we should establish our baseline and then build on what has already been accomplished.

Charissa noted that we need to look at our congregation's ongoing operation, our UUFBC policies and our funds management and investment strategy, as well as buildings and grounds, in order to make our assessment.

Guidance for all phases of the Green Sanctuary Certification process may be found in the manual that Charissa forwarded to team members in her last email. If you did not get an email with this attachment, please let her know.

The team discussed various ways to engage and inform the congregation. We will want to present during Sunday services in October, after we have completed our assessment, and we will probably want to reserve one "second hour" meeting to process the results of the assessment and solicit input for our action steps. We may use a "leaves" theme to submit input, in order to recreate the symbolic green chalice.

The team concurred that it was important to build visibility for the Green Sanctuary project so that congregants can see things happening in an ongoing way.

Candis and Al agreed to take responsibility for the Energy Audit. It may be possible to arrange for Gulf Power to provide an audit free of charge. The UUA does not require a licensed auditor to conduct the audit.

Cheryl agreed to take primary responsibility for the Congregational Assessment. Her “institutional memory” will be an asset in this process.

Mary Thieme agreed to work on the Household Assessment piece. Charissa agreed to chair the Green Sanctuary certification process, if Candis will agree to Chair the UU Environment Committee. Candis has commitments which will prevent her from taking on this responsibility before October.

Charissa will send an email to team members around the 15th of September to check our progress. The Team will meet again on Sunday, September 29th at 11:45 in the UUFBC Office.

Minutes taken by Jo Shaffer.