



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Congregational Stewardship Services
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Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy

Congregation Information

Date: ~~12-3-2013~~

Congregation Name: **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County**

Address: **1410 Airport Rd. Panama City, Florida 32405**

Web site: **uuofbaycounty.com**

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Minister or Congregation Leader: **Jack Harvey, President**

Congregation Profile

Over the last several years, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County (UUFBC) has been undergoing a rejuvenation of our spirit, organization and goals. As a Fellowship, we have worked hard to develop a vision statement, mission statement, congregational covenant and a 5-year plan. We have greatly remodeled our facility, purchased a baby grand piano, designed a new website and achieved our Welcoming Congregation accreditation. And we are proud to say that all our hard work has really paid off with a spurt of new membership. A large part of our growth is due to our new "Vision and Growth" program that is focused on how the UUFBC can increase its efforts to better serve our community. For as much as we have recently accomplished, historically, we have been a small and simple group. Our beginnings in Bay County reach all the way back to 1955, when a few large families met in homes, restaurants and the occasional community room. The early family members organized a strong RE program and even a

children's choir, but eventually, leadership waned and the group dwindled away in the 1970's.

In 1980, a couple of Unitarian Universalists relocated to the area and decided to start a new UU group. The programming consisted mostly of discussions on humanist themes and regular visits from an area minister. The small group carried along, and by 1998, was meeting every other Sunday in a local community building. Because they had no space of their own, they dutifully set up and took down all the chairs, tables, banners, hymnals, etc. for every service. The music even came from a tape recorder.

In 2001, they made a bold move and started meeting every Sunday, despite a fear that their attendance would wane. Instead, they were elated when attendance increased with the additional programming. Eventually, after lots of planning and fundraising, the group was able to purchase our current facility in 2002. Since then, our membership has grown slowly, but consistently. We reported 56 members for 2012, and as we approach the end of 2013 we have 82 members with a weekly average attendance of 53 members, friends, and visitors.

As we look to the future, our energy is at an all time high! Our Board of Directors continue to establish a stronger organizational structure; we've recently hired our first part-time RE Director; our passion for social justice finally has a focus, dealing with community foster teens; and we are in full swing to achieve our Green Sanctuary accreditation. As one of only two liberal religious organizations in the area, we understand the importance of openly supporting our Seven Principles in the community so that those seeking an alternative spiritual experience can finally have a place to call home.

Green Sanctuary Committee

Pursuing a Green Sanctuary Accreditation has long been a goal of our Fellowship. Our commitment to this process was further strengthened when it was added to our 5 Year Strategic Plan which the UUFBC voted to enact in the summer of 2013. The following is our Green Sanctuary Proclamation that was presented to our Fellowship on October 6, 2013

Green Sanctuary Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County is dedicated to the preservation of our environment, a sustainable future, and a resilient Fellowship;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County is dedicated to making the changes necessary in support of our commitment;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County recognizes that action is required to make these changes;

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County has determined a course of action by adopting the Environmental Goals within its Strategic Five Year Plan,

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County has determined it will seek to become a UUA certified "Green Sanctuary",

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, John Harvey, President of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County, on behalf of its Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim September 29, 2013, as Green Sanctuary Commencement Day; and by so doing, encourage congregants to embrace the positive impact in our sanctuary, grounds, and community; and to find ways to support our Fellowship's commitment throughout the course of this project and beyond

John Harvey, President

Board of Directors

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Our Green Sanctuary Committee consists of many long time UUFBC members with diverse backgrounds in environmental activism and support. We were also very lucky to have several uniquely skilled members on the committee that really deepened our team's resources.

Al Clare: Over 40 years experience as a Building Contractor. Al is an active member of the Bay County Conservancy, Native Plant Society, Florida Trail Association and the Bay County Audubon Society.

Candis Harbison: Long time UUFBC member, former BOD member and current Environment Committee Chair. Candis is a charter member and president of the Bay County Conservancy and a member/officer of multiple environmentally active organizations including: Florida Native Plant Society, Bay County Audubon Society, NW Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club, St. Andrews Bay Environmental Study Team and Florida Trail Association. She is a strong environmental advocate having served on numerous local environmental committees and community boards in Bay County.

Cheryl Kellogg: Long time UUFBC member, former BOD member and current member of the facility and landscaping committee. Cheryl is a life long environmentalist and active member of the Conservation Committee of the Gulf Coast Women's Club, St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association and the Florida Trail Association.

Jo Shaffer: UUFBC member, current Vice President of the UUFBC, Chair of the UUFBC Resource Development Committee and member of the UUFBC Social Justice Committee. Jo is the current Housing Commissioner for the city of Panama City and has many years of professional NGO work experience in affordable housing programs. She is also a master gardener.

John Shaffer: Member of the UUFBC Vision and Growth Committee and the UUFBC Worship Committee. John is the Director of the local Americorps Program of Goodwill Big Bend. John has many years of professional NGO work experience in affordable housing programs. He holds an Earth Craft Certification, Novan Solar Institute Certification and is a long time member of the Audubon Society.

Mary Theime: Long time UUFBC member and former BOD member. Mary is a retired anthropologist and active member of the Bay County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, St. Andrew's Bay Environmental Study Team, Bay County Audubon Society, Bay County Conservancy and the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Associates/ Baywatch Program.

Charissa Thacker (Chair): UU Board of Directors member. Charissa is a student of Environmental Science and member of the Florida Trail Association.

Environmental Assessment

Although our Fellowship is not a new community we have been a relatively small and only moderately active Fellowship for many years. Much of our real growth in numbers has been over the last 5 years and the real push to becoming a thriving and active community has been mostly over the last 2 .5 years. Individually, our members are typical UUs, active in numerous political, social and environmental community organizations, but we lack the same involvement as a Fellowship. To this end, our Fellowship completed our first 5 Year Strategic Plan this summer! With the creation of this plan, there has been a Fellowship wide call to action in many areas including, social justice, religious exploration and the Green Sanctuary Program. As we completed the Assessment process, we discovered room for much improvement in many areas.

Our Green Sanctuary Team tackled the Assessment by assigning each category to a different team member. Team members then contacted committee chairs, researched policies, conducted interviews and publicized on-line surveys to collect the data for the assessment. Here are the results:

Energy Audit:

Due to our small size and very limited budget, UU and Green Sanctuary Team member, Al Clare, building contractor with more than 40 years of experience conducted much of the Energy Audit.

Over the last 2 years, the UUFBC has undergone major structural changes to our facility. These changes were designed to ease our growing pains, but concurrently addressed several energy saving issues as well. During the redesign of our former residential home, consideration was given to bettering the airflow to help the A/C circulation, window insulation, lighting replacements and repurposing of materials. We also, recently, replaced our old well water pump and filter with new energy efficient parts.

However, the building is nearly 40 years old and there are many recommendations for upgrading the energy efficiency of the facility.

Recommendations:

- Create a green plan for the replacement of the air conditioning unit, roof and hot water tank when necessary.
- Insulate the ceiling pot lights and the attic.
- Repair duct work in attic and add air return in ceiling.
- Replace wind turbine on roof and attic ventilation.
- Convert all light fixtures to green bulbs
- Replace 3 part windows with higher efficiency alternatives
- Install outside lighting on timer

- Program thermostat for most energy efficient results.

Congregational Assessment:

Worship & Celebration

Like many UU communities around the country, our Fellowship has conducted earth-centered services in the past, such as the Water Communion, Earth Day service and Solstice service. However, there is no official mechanism for insuring these specific services are conducted or any direction for the worship committee's area of responsibilities in regards to our 7th principle.

Recommendations:

- Add a line to the congregational covenant in support of the 7th principle.
- Give more direction on quantity and quality of earth-centered services.

Religious Exploration

Last year our small RE program was dissolved due to lack of participation and support. There are still only 3-6 children that attend Sunday Services, but not with much regularity. During the previous RE program, there was some attention paid to outdoor activities that including seed planting and some focus on the 7th principle, but there was not any specific environmental curriculum followed. In the last 6 months, a long time UU member started a small group ministry with a strong turnout. The program conducts several chalice circles, a men's group, a book group and a caregiver's support group throughout the month. At the time of this application, we recently hired our first UUFBC employee, a Religious Exploration Coordinator.

Recommendations:

- Develop a strong adult RE program with 7th Principle options.
- Recruit children for a new children's RE program

Environmental Justice

As individuals, our UU members are very active in numerous social, political and environmental groups in our community. As a Fellowship, we have participated in short term sporadic causes, but we've never had one social justice issue to focus our collective energy on, until very recently. Unfortunately, this means that there has never really been any wide spread concentration by the Fellowship on any environmental justice programs either.

Recommendation:

- Collaborate with the Social Justice committee to find some crossover with the new social justice project that was initiated recently.

Sustainable Living

Energy Use & Management:

Our energy supplier is Gulf Power Company, a U.S. investor-owned electric utility, with all common stock owned by the Atlanta based Southern Company and it services 10 counties and 71 towns in northwest Florida. The energy we purchase from Gulf Power is not sustainable. All generating facilities use fossil fuel. However, Gulf Power reports that since 1992 it has reduced its overall plant emissions by 85 percent, while added 135,000 customers over that time period.

Our fellowship made the decision in 2005 to purchase a solar unit that powers the lighting for our main sign in front on our property.

Monthly electrical kilowatt usage for 2009 through 2012 are as follows: 2009 - 29, 2010 - 40, 2011 - 40, and 2012 - 37. Our usage has remained fairly constant over the past three years and the use of our building has greatly increased at the same time. We attribute this stable electric usage to our efforts to upgrade and improve our overall facility and use energy saving elements whenever appropriate. We have no set policies or practices concerning heating, lighting and electrical components.

Most of our members are environmentally conscious and do try to turn off lights when not in use. Our office staff does power off computers when they leave the building. Approximately two years ago we installed a programmable thermostat which does regulate temperatures for times that the facility is occupied and unoccupied.

Recommendation:

- Thermostat programming needs to be revisited as changes in use become apparent.
- Outside lighting is limited and needs improvement.

Water Use & Management:

At present in Bay County there are no threats to free and open access to good quality water. Water to residents is from the Deer Point Lake Reservoir and its main vulnerability is associated with potential salt water flowing into the reservoir during major hurricane surge events. Chemical contaminants to the ground water are unlikely. Our fellowship procures its water from a well that was on the existing property when it was purchased. In May 2003 we installed an oxidation and filtration system to improve the quality of our well water. The quality of our

water was last tested in 2006 and test results met all National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference requirements for those parameters which require accreditation. With a well system we have no data on water consumption. As a water conservation measure our grounds policy states that we will only water flowers and newly established plants as needed and an irrigation system will not be used. A definite challenge for our facility is aging infrastructure. The facility was built around 1939 - 1940. Plumbing has been partially updated with additional work needed. Due to a recent lightning strike, a new well pump and filtration system were installed in October 2013. We presently do not have water saving faucets or toilets. We presently maintain a septic system for waste and it has required maintenance twice since 2002. Connection to the counties public utilities may be necessary in the future as we grow.

Facilities Management:

The fellowship has hired a professional cleaning company that comes twice a month to clean the facility. They are encouraged to use environmentally friendly products when feasible. Volunteers help out with cleaning during other times and for special events. At this time, there are no set policies for purchasing recycled content supplies, nontoxic cleaning products, or materials from sustainable products. Many in our fellowship are aware of the sustainable food concept with approximately 10% of the fellowship practicing sustainable food consumption. There are usually many vegetarian options made available as a regular practice at our communal meals. Fair trade coffee has been incorporated from time to time but there is not set policy for its use. There are 10 sites within our county where recyclables can be taken for drop off. Aluminum and steel cans, newspaper, cardboard, and P1 & P2 plastics are items that are allowed. There is no public curbside recycle program in Bay County. Due to the inconvenience of transporting to county sites, many individuals do not recycle. Our fellowship decided in August 2013 to hire a private recycling company to service our facility and congregants. We began with one container and due to popular demand now have three containers with twice monthly pickup of plastics, newspapers, cardboard, & aluminum. Our RE program this summer collected aluminum cans to support a local cause. Recycling is voluntary. We have no set policy that stipulates our recycling efforts. Kitchen composting is not practical as we currently hold only a once a month potluck and not enough waste is generated to make composting viable. Occasionally individuals take waste home and add to their own compost bins. A core volunteer group cares for our land and gardens. Due to the 2-acre size of our property and abundant vegetation, it is a sizable undertaking. When we purchased the property in 2002 it had been untended for many years and it has required huge investments of time and energy to achieve a safe, visible and semi-natural environment. Our grounds policy states: *"We will establish both wild and developed areas of our property and commit to maintain and do no harm to wildlife. We will preserve our wetlands in their natural state, with a 5-10 ft. buffer of vegetation along*

banks of the stream and pond. Only slow release organic or environmentally friendly pest controls will be used, and these will be locally applied only as needed; nor will herbicides be used, except as needed for removal of invasive species. Our adequate water supply has maintained the health of plant communities in the past so no irrigation system is necessary. We will water individual plants at times as needed, especially when establishing new plantings. Pruning will be guided by the need to maintain the health of the plants and safety of the building.

In order to reduce maintenance, improve the soil, nourish plants and reduce weed growth in non-lawn areas we will maintain and reserve natural mulch. Our lawn is healthy and has done well despite little attention. Thus to protect our wetlands from danger of chemical runoff we will not apply any chemical fertilizers but rather insure maximum health of grass in lawn areas by setting mowers at high level, leaving clippings in place. We will endeavor to remove invasive plants as time permits".

Transportation:

Public transportation within our county is extremely limited. Bay Town Trolley is the only public transportation available. The service has limited routes and does not operate on Sundays. It is primarily designed for the working public Monday through Friday. Weekly routes usually end between 6 and 7 p.m. which would not allow for attending evening activities. Thus, most congregants use their own personal vehicles to attend activities of the fellowship. There is no carpool system presently for our fellowship and carpooling is done on an individual request basis. It is not practical or safe for individuals to walk or bike to our fellowship. There are no designated bike paths that are separate from the highway. Sidewalks are not always available. Most attendees to our fellowship live over two miles from our fellowship building. Only a few individuals bicycle or walk occasionally to fellowship functions.

Financial Management:

Our endowment fund states: "Whenever financially prudent, investments should be based on concepts of social responsibility." For several years we did invest funds from our endowment with a firm that was considered socially responsible. We were not gaining on our investment and it was decided to place the funds in certificates of deposit.

Action Plan

***Additional projects*

Worship and Celebration Projects (2 required)

Project Title: Earth Centered Services

Project Description: This initiative is to ensure at least 4 earth-centered worship services throughout the year, to include such topics as “Blessing of the animals”, “Water and Flower Communion” and seasonal services. Our Fellowship has preformed these services before, but it is our goal to broaden the topic range and to deepen the meaning of the spiritual connection to the natural topic. We will also add a line to our congregational covenant to specifically address and support the 7th Principle.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Al Burgermeister, Worship Committee Chair

Project Title: Green Altar

Project Description: In order to design a worship center that reflects our environment commitment, the Interior Décor Team will work to bring more natural materials into our worship center and create a stronger spiritual connection with the outdoors. Projects include regular native plant displays with informational cards, exploring seasonal chalice and commission a new podium/alter made of local woods and natural materials. We will also find ways to honor our natural environment by noting each season as it comes upon us and then passes into the next.

Timeline for Completion: July 2014 with regular updating

Lead: Dianna Avrigian and Cheryl Kellogg, Interior Décor Committee

****Project Title:** Outdoor Worship Center

Project Description: One of the many perks of living in the state of Florida is our temperate weather. Because of this we are able to enjoy outdoor activities nearly year round and our beautiful natural setting was a major factor in purchasing our property. Our facility is a converted home on a large plot with a large pond and many pine trees and hardwoods. Our grounds committee takes great care to preserve the natural order of our property while maintaining an attractive lawn for our enjoyment. On Sunday mornings that the weather allows, we often enjoy having the doors open during the service. So, in order to more fully enjoy the wonder and the beauty of our outdoor environment, our UU Environment Committee will explore the opportunity to create an outdoor worship center.

Timeline for Completion: July 2014

Lead: Candis Harbison, Environment Committee Chair

Religious Education Projects (2 required, 1 for children and 1 for adults)

Project Title: Children's Environmental Awareness Curriculum

Project Description: Our Fellowship has struggled with our children's RE program due to low attendance by young families and limited participants. To address this issue, a major part of our new 5-year plan was to hire a part-time RE Director to organize an Adult RE program and to help build a strong children's RE program. We have recently gone through the hiring process and are excited to say that we now have our first UUFBC employee. In collaboration with the Green Sanctuary Committee, the new Religious Exploration Coordinator will guide the development of an environmental awareness curriculum for our future children's program. The curriculum should include educational components as well as hands on projects and outdoor activities with the purpose of deepening the children's understanding of how the universe works and how they are connected to it. It should also increase their understanding of why our UU faith so strongly supports our 7th Principle. The new program should also encourage the creation of a "green" library for the youth program.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Tiffany Sapp, Religious Exploration Coordinator

Project Title: Adult Environmental Awareness Curriculum

Project Description: As discussed in the Children's Environmental Awareness Project, we recently hired a new part-time Religious Exploration Coordinator to address our adult RE program. It is the desire of our Fellowship to organize a strong adult curriculum in the future and it is the Green Sanctuary Committee's desire that environmental awareness be a regular topic of this curriculum. To fulfill this project, at least one spiritual environmental program will be offered during the year's schedule. It is our goal that these classes go beyond basic understanding of why we should be environmentally friendly and guide us to a deeper understanding of our cosmic connection with the natural world. Classes should be designed to bring spirituality into our environmental awareness.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Tiffany Sapp, Religious Exploration Coordinator

Environmental Justice (2 required, *1 long-term that actively promotes justice for those affected by environmental injustices and creates relationships)

***Project Title:** Community Garden

Project Description: As another part of our new 5-Year plan, it was decided that our Fellowship was ready to focus our efforts on a specific Social Justice project in our community. After presentations from several UU members, it was voted on to

participate in the Bay Youth Interdisciplinary Leadership Development (BYILD). This project encompasses several different projects with foster teens in our area, including a community garden. The project is a collaborative effort between the Green Sanctuary Team, the Social Justice Committee, the Department of Children and Families and the teens of Claire's Girls Home. The project will rejuvenate an existing garden project at a local education facility. The project never went beyond the designation of an area for the garden plot and soil testing, due to lack of an irrigation system, lack of volunteer and financial resources and perhaps a lack of expertise. It is our goal to develop strong relationships with our foster counterparts and instill in them an appreciation for our environment, a commitment to those in need, and desire to contribute to the greater community. The foster teens have expressed interest in working with younger children, so the fruits of our labor will be distributed throughout the local group home system as well as a local elementary school with a large percentage of underprivileged students.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Bob Gilmore, Social Justice Committee Chair

****Project Title:** Environmental Service Days

Project Description: As part of the new Social Justice Committee's commitment to our community they have decided to plan 4 community service days through out the year. These days would enlist the help of everyone in the Fellowship who is willing and able to join in on a workday with a local community organization. In the spirit of collaboration, our next Environmental Justice program is to simply work with the social justice committee to plan 2 of their 4 service days with environmental organizations in our community. This project is designed to not only support our area organizations, but to also expose our membership to the many different conservation/education programs happening in our area.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Bob Gilmore, Social Justice Committee Chair

Project Title: Earth Day Celebration

Project Description: It's very fortunate (although not surprising) that the main organizer of our local Earth Day celebration is a UUFBC member. Over the years, the UU could be counted on to have a table at the event, like other earth conscious groups, but that was the extent of our involvement in the day. It is our goal for this project that our Fellowship, as a whole, play a larger part in the organization and facilitation of the local Earth Day celebration. In order to do this, we will participate in the advertising and promotion of the event, encourage all vendors to offer active and fun educational activities for children that support the Earth Day mission.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Henry Lawrence, Earth Day Coordinator

Sustainable Living (4 required, *1 that addresses energy conservation)

Project Title: UUFBC Policy Review

Project Description: During the assessment stage of the Green Sanctuary process, it was revealed just how little green issues were considered during the writing of our general policies and procedures. We often found that green practices were happening, but that they were due to the convictions of one or two UU members, not because there had been any purposeful thought put into the policies that dictated our behavior. As we continue to grow and transition into a more structured organization, now is the perfect opportunity to start bringing our environmental commitment into our Board of Directors meetings and decision-making process. But, that is only half of the project. For all the policies and procedures that have already been written, this project is meant to challenge the Board of Directors and the Resource Development Committee to review all past policies and consider where our 7th principle might apply.

Timeline for Completion: July 2014

Lead: Jo Shaffer, Resource Development Committee Chair

Project Title: Sustainable Sunday Bulletin

Project Description: Our single use printed Sunday bulletins have been a long time issue for many of the conservation minded members of our Fellowship. The use of recycled paper was just recently suggested for their printing. However, this project's goal is to take it one step further with the creation of a reusable format for the bulletin. Collaborating with the Communication Team and the Worship Committee, it will be the challenge of the Green Sanctuary Team to create a more permanent and sustainable format for the bulletin that will reduce the amount of paper used and the reduce the resulting trash created. This project is also designed to save the Fellowship time and money as well.

Timeline for Completion: April 2014

Lead: Charissa Thacker, Green Sanctuary Chair

Project Title: Ethical Eating Program

Project Description: During the Green Sanctuary process, our team held several workshops with the Fellowship to gather input about topics and projects that they were interested in. A reoccurring theme started to emerge concerning ethical food practices. Ideas ranged from farm tours, to canning, to packaging awareness, to vegetarianism, buying local and more. It quickly became apparent that ethical eating topics peaked the interest of a majority of our Fellowship. In response, the Green Sanctuary team has planned this project to cover several of these topics over the next year. The project will consist of workshops, seminars, tours, cooking classes, movies and more. It will also work to influence our Fellowship community

dinners, by supporting local and organic foods, low trash meals and limited processed foods.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Charissa Thacker, Green Sanctuary Chair

Project Title: Recycling Program

Project Description: Our County may be one of the last places in the country to not offer a city wide recycling program. There are a few recycling drop off centers around the city, but many folks will not make the extra effort to collect separate and transport their recycling materials. To address this issue, the UUFBC recently installed 3 recycling bins from a local recycling service. This project has been a huge success and the cans are often filled to the brim on pick up days. It is our goal with this project to deepen the impact by supplying bins for recyclables next to all trash bins for easy separation of materials at the UU, separating the aluminum material to use as a possible funding source for the Green Sanctuary Program and promote not only recycling, but also the reuse of items. In many cases, the reuse of materials is less harmful than the recycling of them when you consider the energy it takes to actually recycle something. This project will support creative ideas for members to reuse materials in their homes and at the UU.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Candis Harbison, Environment Committee Chair

****/*Project Title:** Energy Saving Project

Project Description: Our current facility is a converted house built in the 1970s. The UUFBC purchased the building in 2002, but it wasn't until 2012 that any substantial remodeling was done to the facility. At that time, major renovations were done to open our sanctuary up and create a more inviting worship area for our growing Fellowship. At the same time, it allowed us to address some of the energy inefficient fixtures in the building and put to use some green practices. We replaced old windows for better insulation, walls were taken down for better air flow and repurposed materials were used when available. However, these improvements were just the beginning of the recommended changes to the facility to promote energy savings! To this end, the UU Environment Committee will pursue the energy savings recommendations from our energy audit assessment of our facilities, including repairing duct work and insulating the attic, replacing the wind turbine on the roof to increase attic ventilation, adding an air return in the ceiling for better air flow, converting all light fixture to energy-efficient bulbs, installing outside lighting on a timer, and programming our thermostat to eliminate the large fluctuations of manual usage.

Timeline for Completion: On going

Lead: Al Clare, Member of the Green Sanctuary Team and Building Contractor

Communications Plan

The following describes our plans to communicate with our Fellowship on the Green Sanctuary Program, environmental issues and sustainable living strategies:

- Utilizing our Green Sanctuary Page on our Fellowship website (uuofbaycounty.com)
 - Post minutes of committee meetings
 - Post schedule of events and classes
 - Applaud accomplishments
 - Make public the progress of the plan
 - Offer a comment section for questions
 - Supply lists of local environmental groups open to participation
- Posting on Fellowship calendar and website.
 - Adding events, classes and activities to our Fellowship calendar
 - Design banners for the flashing header of the website
 - Add Green Sanctuary info to the Sunday Service pages when appropriate
- Sharing information and articles through our monthly newsletter
- Add Green Sanctuary section to the weekly bulletin
- Add announcements and reminders in our weekly e-news emails.
- Post events, schedules and accomplishments on our Facebook page
- Create visual advertisements and promotional materials for the sanctuary
- Make regular announcements during the “Announcement” section of our service
- Report regularly to the Board of Directors
- Host Green Team tables at monthly pot lucks highlighting different green products or materials

In addition, to communicate with organizations beyond our Fellowship, we will use the following practices:

- Utilizing our member connections to other community groups
- Collaborate with other pertinent community groups to fulfill our Religious Exploration plan
- Take advantage of the free community calendars in the local newspaper, *The News Herald*
- Send press releases to our local TV stations, magazines and radio stations
- Build relationships with other UU groups and/or their Green Sanctuary committees in the Florida Panhandle