



## **Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy**

### **Congregation Information**

Congregation Name: First Unitarian Church St. Louis

Address: 5007 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

Web site: [www.firstuustlouis.org](http://www.firstuustlouis.org)

Green Sanctuary contact: Lisa Ross

Address: 8161 Kingsbury Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105

Phone: 314-954-0402

Email: [lisros54@gmail.com](mailto:lisros54@gmail.com)

Minister or Congregation Leader: Reverend Samuel Schaal

### **Congregation Profile**

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis has a long and rich history. William Greenleaf Eliot founded the Church of the Messiah, the first Unitarian church west of the Mississippi—and the predecessor of our church—in 1835. In 1868 a second Unitarian congregation, the Church of the Unity, was founded with the assistance of Eliot and the Church of the Messiah. These two churches merged in 1938 to form the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

First Unitarian Church also has a long history of commitment to the city of St. Louis. Ministers and members of this church have been instrumental in the founding of many St. Louis institutions, including Washington University, the St. Louis Public Schools, the Art Museum, Mission Free School, South Side Day Nursery, Social Health Association, Mary Institute (a prestigious private school), and the St. Louis Urban League. First Unitarian Church is located in the urban heart of St. Louis, in the Central West End neighborhood, which is economically and culturally diverse. We have a close relationship with the synagogue across the street from us, Central Reform Congregation. Prior to building their synagogue across the street several years ago, they held their Saturday services in our building. First Unitarian Church is also a member of the Holy Ground Collaborative, a

group of five Central West End congregations of various faiths that meet regularly and promote community action within the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Our current membership is 341, with 233 pledging units. The congregation is primarily (though not exclusively) Caucasian and middle class. Members come from all over St. Louis and the surrounding suburbs, as well as from across the river in Illinois. RE enrollment is 118, with classes from preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by youth group. Our staff support includes an administrator and administrative assistant. Our RE director, Lynn Hunt, is a credentialed religious educator. Additional staff include RE assistant Rhonda Buegler, childcare provider Augustine Underwood, organist Emily Pearce, music director Joel Knapp, and Maintenance/Sunday Sexton Adem Selimovic.

Our Church has had significant transitional issues over the past 10 years or so. We are currently in our second interim ministry, and starting the search for a settled minister. Our time with Reverend Schaal (our current interim minister) has produced a great deal of reflection and soul searching, and we are emerging as a stronger congregation. One of the issues we continue to work on is the interplay between our strong history and tradition, and the desire to grow and change. It is likely that there will be further changes as we complete our interim ministry and find a settled minister, including changes in structure and governance.

### **Green Sanctuary Committee**

Our Green Sanctuary Committee was founded in the spring of 2008. Unfortunately, our original charter has been lost, but our objectives are as follows:

The Green Sanctuary Committee of First Unitarian Church was founded in order to:

- Promote awareness of environmental issues within the church and the wider world
- Provide a community within which individuals can deepen their spiritual connection to the Earth and all its beings
- Foster greater stewardship of the Earth, as outlined in the seventh principle, through worship, education, individual and social action

Our membership includes:

**Lisa Ross, chair** – Lisa has been a church member for 9 years. She has previously served as chair of the RE committee, and, with her husband, has taught OWL for the last 6 years. Lisa is interested in the spiritual aspect of environmentalism, as well as religious education and individual action.

**Bill Chilton** has been an environmentalist since he was a Boy Scout. He was educated in environmental design and solar architecture in college. Bill is an architect and a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional. Bill was the project architect for the renovation of University City Hall which was a LEED project and is LEED Certified.

**Betsy Grimm-Howell** has been attending First Unitarian Church since 1994 and signed the membership book with her husband George in 1995. Betsy served on the Board of Trustees from 1999-2002 and has been active in the Partner Church Committee, the

Personnel Committee, and the Green Sanctuary Committee. In 2007, she and Nancy Belt founded Hope Choir, a children's choir, which she currently conducts.

**Joyce Pearl Jones** has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2000, a member of First Church since 2009, and involved with a covenant group at First Church since 2008. Joyce is a certified botanical docent and a pioneer of the Walking-in-Garden Meditation tour series (see project descriptions to follow). She is also interested in First Unitarian garden development, and participating in Green Sanctuary seasonal worship services (as a speaker or reader of poetry).

**Susan Lammert** is a Landscape Architect and is interested in sustainability in her work and in the choices she makes for food and her life style in general. She feels that the Green Sanctuary project has made her more aware of the consequences of these choices, and of how this awareness can be a positive catalyst for change.

**M. Jana Pereau** is an architect and teaches sustainable design in the School of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. She also maintained a small professional practice for many years in and around St. Louis. She has held a long-standing interest in sustainable, environmental design, harking back to her student days in the 1970's. Her interests focus partly on the church building itself, and ways to conserve energy and create a more "green" home for the church. Jana's passion is to develop the landscaping as environmentally friendly, with less water usage and more native planting. Long term projects that she hopes to see implemented include rain gardens, pervious paving in the parking lot, and a community vegetable and flower garden.

**Terri F. Reilly** is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> membership year at First Unitarian Church and is honored to be involved in Green Sanctuary. Her environmental background includes past executive director of St. Louis Earth Day, and she currently consults with non-profit groups on a variety of green issues. Her areas of expertise include materials management, solid waste mitigation, event recycling and environmental education. Terri is finishing her graduate degree in non-profit management and leadership at Webster University, where she also teaches as an adjunct professor.

**Brody Wilson** has been attending First Unitarian Church for almost 4 years. In his day job he works as an engineer for a local energy efficiency consulting firm. His job centers on identifying and designing cost effective efficiency retrofits for large commercial buildings. Brody brings this engineering expertise and a passion for efficiency education to his seat on the Green Sanctuary Committee.

## **Environmental Assessment**

### **Energy Audit**

The energy audit was performed by Brody Wilson, who has professional expertise in this area. This report is intended to give a snapshot of our current energy use, and identify opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of our church.

## **Historical Energy Use**

The energy consumption of the church was analyzed for the last three years. There are two energy meters at First UU: one for natural gas and one for electricity.

In a normal weather year, First Unitarian spends \$8,450 on natural gas. Of this gas use, 14% or \$1,162 is base load usage (such as for cooking, pilot lights, and hot water). The remaining 86% of the natural gas use goes toward heating the church.

In a normal weather year, First Unitarian spends \$6,900 on electricity. Of this energy use, 77% is base load energy (for lights, computers, etc.). The remaining 23% is divided into two portions. 11% is additional energy that is used to heat the building in the winter and 12% is additional energy that is used to cool the building in the summer.

## **Selected Opportunities for Energy Performance Improvements**

### **(Please refer to the original complete report for more information.)**

The church spends 53% of its energy costs on heating, 42% on base load (not weather dependent) energy use, and 6% on cooling. For the greatest impact and most cost-effective investment, efficiency efforts should be focused in this order:

Heating performance of the building - Reducing infiltration (air leakage), and ensuring that unoccupied spaces are not heated.

Reducing base load energy use (lights and plug loads, pilot lights)

Improving cooling efficiency

## **Potential Infiltration (Air Leakage) Reductions**

The windows in the older sections of the church allow considerable infiltration into and out of the building. Their tightness could be improved with moderate effort, and without replacing the windows. Replacing these windows for energy savings is not recommended, as the investment would take 20-30 years to pay for itself in savings.

Chimney flue dampers should be repaired and sealed.

## **HVAC Opportunities and Recommendations**

The boiler that provides heat for the sanctuary was recently replaced. Because the sanctuary is used less frequently than other spaces in the church, it was decided that the premium for a high-efficiency boiler was not cost-justified.

Hope Chapel's mechanical systems represent a model to be followed when possible in future mechanical retrofits, replacements, and upgrades. This system provides heat at between one-third and one-half of the cost of a steam system. (Hope chapel is part of the newer addition to the church, used for children's chapel and church meetings and events.)

The mechanical systems serving the office and classrooms are now the oldest in the church and represent the most likely next upgrade in equipment efficiency. These units present some of our most promising opportunities for improvement, and should be replaced with air source heat pumps similar to those serving Hope Chapel.

A review of all of the Church's thermostats settings and signage is recommended to ensure spaces are never conditioned when unoccupied.

The exhaust hood in the kitchen is expensive to operate and should be labeled as such to ensure that it is not left on inadvertently.

## **Lighting Opportunities**

While most of the lighting in the church is modern and efficient, there are still several opportunities for cost-effective improvements in efficiency. Ameren UE is offering financial incentives that make these improvements even more economical. The following types of lighting retrofits are available:

Replace magnetic ballast T12 fluorescent lamps with electronic ballast T8 fluorescent lamps.

Replace incandescent exit signs with LED exit signs.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps.

## **Religious Education Assessment**

Lynn Hunt, Director of Religious Education for The First Unitarian Church, provided the information concerning environmental education in the children's Religious Education program. This information was compiled by Bill Chilton.

### ***Children's Religious Education Program***

**Pre-school** classes have quite a few nature lessons. These include fall walks, appreciation of the change of seasons, making bird feeders, spring planting and completing art work that is inspired by nature. These activities always occur alongside discussions about our connection to nature and our responsibility for the world. Each Sunday school lesson has a story that illustrates these points and the lessons occur throughout the church year (with a heavier emphasis in the Spring.)

**The second and third grade** curriculum is a re-working of the classic Sunday school curriculum by Sophia Lyon Fahs: How Miracles Abound. In this curriculum, the children look at various aspects of nature and explore nature through traditional stories, world myths, and modern literature. They engage in activities on various themes with art, science experiments and games. The goal is for the students to experience nature through a variety of methods and to gain a connection to and sense of responsibility for our earth. Themes include: creation, water, minerals, trees, spirals, plants, life in the desert, and the beginnings of life. These lessons are taught throughout both second and third grade.

With the **older classes**, the Religious Education program begins to devote more time to a concrete examination of religion and ethics. At this time there is not a strong environmental component in the program for the older grades. The exception would be the creation of the Gaia Club in the sixth/seventh grade class. There is hope that this club can continue and develop and extend activities up into the youth group.

The children's **Summer Religious Education** program has a strong environmental component. The program uses the "Keepers of the Earth" and "Keepers of Life" text books.

This is a series of books that bring together teachings about life and the earth from various Native American groups with environmental activities. This program was used for a multi-age group (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade) all through the summer of 2008.

Intergenerational learning involves experiences that encourage children and adults to learn environmental related lessons from each other. Right now, the only projects that would fall into this category are the alley cleaning project that was completed in 2008; some landscaping with the Sunday school children; and the RE-sponsored electronics recycling at the Church's garage sale in 2008.

## **Worship Assessment**

Betsy Grimm-Howell reviewed the Orders of Service for the last few church years in order to assess how well our worship "integrates the wisdom of the Earth," the question posed in the *Green Sanctuary Manual*. This report summarizes what was found regarding the period from September 2006 - 2009.

Current status: Since September of 2006, we have had 2 sermon topics specifically related to environmental issues and concerns and 4 sermon topics with nature or Earth-centered themes. They were:

12/06 - Margret O'Neill, student minister, preached a solstice-related sermon on "Bringing Back the Light"

1/07 - Suzanne Meyer gave a sermon "In the Midst of Winter" with accompanying readings about the solstice

2/07 - Suzanne Meyer preached "Kindred Spirits," a sermon about animals

5/07 - Cary Eustis, intern minister, preached a sermon specifically about environmental issues called "Our Home", and in the Order of Service she printed "Five Simple Things to Do to Make a Difference for our Earth Home"

9/07 - Suzanne Meyer preached a sermon entitled "Trees"

Spring '08 - Scott Lewis, intern minister, preached a sermon specifically about the Green Sanctuary movement

Evaluation: Although our various ministers have occasionally taken a stab at bringing in Earth-conscious themes, I believe we have much room for improvement in this area. On a very basic level, our worship services could incorporate many more elements of environmental consciousness. Everything from music to readings to invocations and benedictions can tie a service more closely to the seasons and the natural world.

## **Sustainable living and social action assessments:**

The following information was gathered from interviewing members of the Executive Board of Directors, several church committee chairs/members, and the church administrator. Everyone I have spoken with in the church is very supportive of efforts to be more environmentally friendly.

**Recycling:** We currently employ a recycling service that picks up materials (paper, glass, plastic, aluminum) from outside the church weekly. The church offices recycle paper. The bulk of non-paper recycling comes from church events. Since we began this assessment, the Green Sanctuary committee joined with the Feasts and Festivals committee to purchase new, large, single stream recycling containers for Fellowship Hall. This has already led to an increase in recycling at church events.

**Materials:** Our paper is donated anonymously by a church member, and is not selected based on recycled content. The church purchases a small amount of paper products such as toilet paper, paper towel, Kleenex, and napkins. We use ceramic plates and cups, and metal silverware for our weekly coffee hour and most church events. We also have cloth table cloths. We do use plastic glasses, and paper napkins.

**Catering:** We do not currently contract based on use of local and/or organic foods, but do offer a vegetarian option at every church event. The Feasts and Festivals Committee is very open to pursuing environmentally friendly options.

**Cleaning:** We contract with a company for church cleaning. Their cleaning supplies are in unmarked bottles and they have not responded to our inquiries about the products. They do use vinegar and water to clean the windows. Wax stripper is applied annually.

**Landscaping:** We contract for much of our landscape maintenance, and the remainder is done by church volunteers. The company does not currently use environmentally friendly products. Cost of landscaping is donated anonymously by a church member. Our parking lot is asphalt, with several trees. Our grounds are a combination of grass, bushes, trees, perennials, and annuals; planted and largely maintained by church members.

**Location and transportation:** First Unitarian Church is located in urban St. Louis, in an economically and culturally diverse neighborhood. There is a bus stop directly in front of the church, but no metrolink (light rail) stop nearby. Most church members drive to church, many from 20 minutes or more away. There are a number of members that walk from nearby neighborhoods to the church.

**Church policies and procedures:** There is currently no formal mechanism or policy for considering environmental factors when making purchasing and investment decisions. The Board of Directors is supportive of developing such a policy.

**Social action:** The following social action projects have an environmental focus or component:

- Weekly sale of Fair Trade coffee and chocolate
- Litter pick up along Forest Park Parkway (a major street in our area) several times a year
- Annual River Des Peres clean up
- Community Action Endowment Fund, which donated to Project Cope for a community garden in 2008 and EnergyCare in 2009
- Lead paint removal in collaboration with the Holy Ground Collaborative, a St. Louis interfaith organization

### **Congregational Survey:**

We composed a 73 question survey assessing the congregation in eight categories: carbon footprint, reducing solid waste, green purchasing, green transportation, energy efficiency, water conservation, reducing toxic substances, and green spiritual and ethical practices. The survey was available on line from home (through SurveyMonkey), and we also had laptops set up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, as well as a few paper copies available. 92 people completed the survey. Although the results are difficult to summarize, there were several themes that emerged. Most people were interested in learning more about ways they could conserve energy, reduce consumption, and use more environmentally friendly products. Aside from lack of information, the main reasons cited for not choosing the "greener" option were impracticality (e.g. carpooling or using public transportation), or cost (e.g. organic food, new energy-efficient heating/cooling appliances or dual flush toilets). Over 55% of respondents found nature-based spiritual practices important to them.

## **Action Plan**

### ***Worship and Celebration Projects (2 required)***

#### **Project Title: Lay-led worship service with environmental/"green" theme**

**Project Description:** The Green Sanctuary Committee will work with members of the Worship Committee to develop a lay-led service with an environmental theme. Traditionally our summer services are lay-led, so that would provide an ideal opportunity for the coming year. Volunteers will present the invocation, benediction, readings, music, and prayers for the service, incorporating the theme of respect, love and appreciation for the Earth. A potential sermon speaker would be Jean Ponzi from Earthways Center (a division of the Missouri Botanical Gardens devoted to promoting sustainability).

**Timeline for Completion:** Summer 2010 or 2011, with annual recurrence of a similar service

**Lead:** Betsy Grimm-Howell

#### **Project Title: Solstice and Equinox celebrations**

**Project Description:** The Winter Solstice celebration will be an inter-generational and family-friendly event in the evening, outdoors (weather permitting). We will incorporate readings, music (drum circle and chanting), candle lighting, and fire, with the intention of honoring the darkness and welcoming the light. The Spring Equinox celebration will also be held outside, again incorporating music (harpist). The summer solstice will occur during our summer hiatus, so will likely be a smaller event, perhaps during the usual Sunday service closest to the solstice. We will work with the worship committee to incorporate readings, music, and a sermon relating to the solstice. Fall Equinox celebration will occur in September.

**Timeline for Completion:** Winter Solstice December 20, 2009; Spring Equinox March 21 2010, Summer Solstice June 19, 2010, Fall Equinox date to be determined. The plan would be to continue these events annually.

**Lead:** Lisa Ross, Paulita Pranschke and Ella Allen (from RE). This will be a joint venture with the Religious Education Committee, whose chair is Sarah Francois.

## **Project Title: Walking-in-Garden Meditation**

**Project Description:** Walking-in-Garden meditation is a mindfulness and holistic health practice, developed by Joyce Pearl Jones. Through intentionally being in garden spaces, the senses are awakened, and the heart and mind brought into harmony with the "Garden as Spiritual Home." These walking meditations can be educational as well as helpful in promoting healing.

This project will consist of an initial series of 5 tours at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, one of the world's premier city gardens, led by Joyce and several associates.

Additional tours may be developed in the future (e.g. a winter tour). Tours will be free, and open to all members and friends of the Church.

### 1: THE FIRST SIGNS OF HOPE (spring)

- Spring Bulbs tour; Intro to *Walking-in-Garden*™ meditation
- Led by: Joyce Pearl Jones (JPJ)

### 2: HEALING GARDENS (Date to be arranged)

- Garden as Therapy (*Walking-in-Garden*™ meditation); and the Turkish Palace Garden architectural style
- Held in Ottoman Garden
- Led by Melanie Fathman, Art Docent, Saint Louis Art Museum and JPJ

### 3. THE SCHOLAR'S GARDEN (Date to be arranged)

- How to *See* a Garden, Planting Intimate Gardens, Garden Interpretation-Study Skills)
- Held in The Chinese Garden (tours before and during Chinese Festival)
- Led by: Ruth Hermann Sires, International Speaker and Consultant, Green Wave Specialist, former Catholic Nun and JPJ

### 4. GARDENS FOR CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION (September)

- *Walking-in-Garden*™ meditation (the whole thing)
- Held in The Japanese Garden (tours before and during the Japanese Festive)
- Led by JPJ

### 5. AUTUMN STEPS (October);

- *Healing Gardens* in Organizations; *Walking-in-Garden*™ meditation as a Grief and Depression Recovery method
- Led by JPJ

**Timeline for completion:** Tours will begin in the Spring 2010 and continue throughout the year, with a plan to repeat them or develop new tours for future years.

**Lead:** Joyce Pearl Jones

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

**Project Title: Composting Bin Construction and Implementation**

**Project Description:** Seventh, eighth and ninth-grade children in the Religious Education program will be supervised in the construction of a medium-sized composting bin at the First Unitarian Church. The bin will be constructed of modern composite and durable materials assuring its longevity. The compost bin will be located on the rear lawn of the building, adjacent to the Church's kitchen. The location was determined to be the most convenient for depositing food scraps and yard waste generated at the Church. The students will research composting methods and then determine a policy for the Church compost bin, detailing appropriate types and amounts of food scraps and yard waste to be deposited in the compost bin. The children, along with parents and teachers, will be regularly inspecting, turning and maintaining the compost pile.

**Timeline for Completion:** The compost bin will be constructed in spring of 2010. It is anticipated that the first successful decomposed organic material will be produced in fall of 2010. It will be used as a rich soil medium for the Church's vegetable garden and flower beds.

**Lead:** Bill Chilton

**Project Title:** Green Corner

**Project Description:** Our survey results demonstrated that there is much interest in the congregation in learning about sustainable living. We propose developing a "green corner." This would be both a physical corner in Fellowship Hall, as well as a virtual corner using electronic media. The physical space in Fellowship Hall would include a display on which could be posted green tips, as well as information about local resources and activities. Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee would staff the table on Sunday mornings after services. The virtual green corner would include links on our webpage to local resources (e.g. "which restaurants use locally sourced foods?"), answers to frequently asked questions (e.g. "where can I recycle batteries?"), and information about committee and community activities. In addition both could act as a clearing house for interested volunteers, or to coordinate activities such as setting up carpools to church. We would provide a weekly or monthly "green tip" in the order of service, as well as post it on the Green Corner display and the website.

**Timeline for Completion:** Development summer 2010 with implementation beginning fall 2010

**Lead:** Jana Perea, Lisa Ross

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

**Project Title: Southside Day Nursery Long-Term Collaborative Project**

**Project Description:** Located in South St. Louis City, SSDN (South Side Day Nursery) was founded in 1886 by 15 Unitarian women to provide young children a safe, nurturing and educational environment while their parents were at work. First Unitarian Church has a long history of involvement with SSDN; members of First Church continue to serve on its board and to participate in ongoing projects. As a non-profit serving a challenged community, SSDN has been very successful in creating a nurturing, affordable space for young children, as well as support for their families. They have begun an active gardening program, and have acquired land on which they hope to build a new building eventually. In the meantime, they have significant energy and usage problems with their older, existing building.

Through our efforts we propose to increase the energy efficiency for a building that is used throughout the week for over 12 hours a day. We hope to increase the effective use of space and support the staff in their efforts to teach the children about gardens, food, and nature.

Specifically, we want to perform an energy audit and include a list of ways they can conserve energy. We want to engage their staff and support their work in creating a community and school garden. We also want to look at how we might help them rehab their atrium space so that the children can use it for fall/winter recreation and spring/summer gardening.

We plan to collaborate with the Men's Group of First Unitarian Church, which has a long history of working with Southside Day Nursery over the years and helping them maintain, repair, and renovate their building. We will also engage the youth group for work-day projects.

**Timeline for Completion:** Fall 2010: Meet with SSDN staff to discuss the project, document the space and specific needs and begin collaboration. January-March 2011: Perform the energy audit and produce a list of recommended conservation measures. April-June: Work on gardening efforts, involve congregation members to join in activities to build raised beds, work in gardens, take on areas of interest; continue to develop atrium plans with cost estimates, materials lists, schedules, drawings. July-September: Depending on progress on previous activities, re-evaluate and plan for further work.

**Leads:** Jana Pereau, Brody Wilson

**Project Title: EnergyCare Home Winterization**

**Project Description:** EnergyCare is an organization that provides year-round energy-related services in St. Louis communities for low-income households with persons who are elderly, disabled, or chronically ill. They have an annual Winter Warming Program that

provides weatherization kits to 200 households, and provide weatherization service to an additional 100 households. EnergyCare was one of the recipients of our Social Action Endowment Fund grants in 2009. We plan to volunteer with them to winterize houses beginning next winter, and, beginning next summer/fall, to have children in the RE classes help to assemble the winterization kits. We hope this would become an ongoing partnership.

**Timeline for Completion:** Assembling of kits will occur in early September 2010, and we plan to participate in at least 3 winterization dates next winter (2010-11).

**Lead:** Lisa Ross

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

**Project Title:** Energy Use Awareness

**Project Description:** The objective of this project is to develop understanding and awareness in the congregation of how the energy we consume at church affects the environment and the church's energy bill. Currently congregation members are generally aware that when they adjust a thermostat to heat or cool a space, or flip a light switch on, they are using energy. However, few people understand how *much* energy is consumed when they adjust a thermostat or flip a switch. This project aims to label all energy consuming controls in the church with clear information about how much energy is controlled by each light switch or thermostat. For example, a light switch might display how many watts of lighting the switch controls, how many dollars per hour or day the lights consume when left on, and how many pounds of carbon are released into the atmosphere for each hour the lights are operated. Helping the building's users develop an understanding of how much a watt or BTU is, how much it costs, and how it affects the planet will inform our decisions about energy consumption at church, home and work.

Information required for the labeling will be collected by members of the Green Sanctuary and Facilities committees, with involvement of the older RE classes, and especially the Gaia club, so that this will also be an educational experience for the youth of the congregation. Once the labels are installed, representatives from the Green Sanctuary committee will announce the program to the congregation via the Sunday service, newsletter, and website, and an informative poster describing the program will be hung in the "Green Corner" in Fellowship Hall. The Church's energy use will continue to be monitored, and significant changes will be reported to the congregation.

**Timeline for Completion:** Survey work and necessary calculations will be performed in the Spring-Summer 2010. Labels will be created and installed in September 2010

**Lead:** Brody Wilson

**Project Title:** Church environmental policy

**Project Description:** The objective of this project is to develop a written church policy for incorporating issues of sustainability and earth justice into church decision making. The church currently has no formal mechanism or policy for considering environmental factors when making purchasing, contracting and investment decisions. The Board of Directors is supportive of developing such a policy. We plan to work closely with the Board of Directors, Finance, and Facilities committees as we develop guidelines for use in church decision making.

**Timeline for Completion:** September 2010 – January 2011: gather examples of policies other churches and institutions have written, brainstorm ideas for our own policy. March–August 2011: work with Board of Directors and relevant committees to refine and finalize policy. September–December 2011 – communicate with congregation and seek Board approval of policy.

**Lead:** Lisa Ross and Brody Wilson

**Project Title:** Use of environmentally friendly cleaning and landscaping products

**Project Description:** First Unitarian Church currently contracts with a company for church cleaning. Their cleaning supplies are in unmarked bottles and they have not responded to our inquiries about the products. We also contract for much of our landscape maintenance (the remainder is done by church volunteers). The landscaping company does not currently use environmentally friendly products.

Our plan would be to work with both the cleaning and landscaping companies to use non-toxic products. This might involve the church supplying the products. We would research the cost of available products, and work with the Facilities committee and Board of Directors to negotiate with the cleaning and landscaping companies. The possible increase in cost would need to be addressed, either by change in budget or additional fundraising.

**Timeline for Completion:** June - September 2010: acquire more detailed information about products currently in use, research non-toxic, environmentally friendly alternatives. October 2010: present recommendations to the Board of Directors. October 2010 – February 2011: plan for possible increase in cost. Spring 2011: implement changes.

**Lead:** Lisa Ross

**Project Title:** Lighting efficiency retrofit

**Project Description:** The energy assessment revealed several potential cost-effective lighting retrofits. The local electrical utility (Ameren UE) is offering substantial financial incentives that will dramatically improve the payback of these retrofit projects (see the

Energy Assessment for detailed information). This project proposes to solicit donations from the congregation to raise the necessary capital for the lighting retrofit project. Solicitation will be presented on a per light basis, such that congregation members will have the opportunity to purchase efficiency retrofits of one or more light fixtures at a time. The solicitation process will be integrated with education about the economics of the efficiency retrofit so donors understand that their donations are a high-yield investment for the church. The return on investment and payback period of each donation will be reported to each donor.

After the lighting retrofit's costs and paybacks are accurately quantified, the fund raising campaign will be kicked off with announcements to the congregation in Sunday services, bulletins, and newsletters. Purchase of one or more lighting fixtures will also be offered as an auction item in our annual fall auction. A poster reporting progress toward our goal will be hung in the "Green Corner" of Fellowship Hall, and will include a description of the project, its aims, and financial details. Once the necessary capital is raised, the congregation will be informed of the installation of the retrofits, as well as the costs, savings, and payback period of the project

**Timeline for Completion:** We hope to raise the necessary funds for the retrofit by the end of 2010, and install the new lights in the spring of 2011.

**Lead:** Brody Wilson

*Additional (2 required, these can relate to the program elements of your choice)*

**Project Title: Community Supported Agriculture**

**Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to increase First Unitarian Church's awareness and support of local, sustainable agriculture to benefit the environment and dietary health. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade RE class at First Unitarian Church takes a trip to Boston at the culmination of the Coming of Age Program. One of the annual fundraisers for this trip is an all church barbecue, which takes place at the end of the church year, and is organized and run by the outgoing 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. We will work with the RE director and 7<sup>th</sup> grade class to provide locally sourced food (as much as possible) and compostable utensils and service-wear for this barbecue. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will help to research the availability of these products in St. Louis. We hope to make this a model for future church sponsored meals.

**Timeline for Completion:** We are hoping to implement this for the June 2010 barbecue

**Lead:** Susan Lammert and Louise Cadwell

## **Project Title: Edible Landscape**

**Project Description:** The long term goal of this project is to organize a community garden; and perhaps join with Central Reform Congregation (across the street) and the Holy Ground Collaborative to create a larger garden looking toward neighborhood and community involvement.

As a first step, we propose to create small landscaping elements using lettuces, and greens of various kinds and colors to create interest, sustainable planting, and to provide food, greens and fresh vegetables, to the local pantries and food kitchens. Part of the intention is to engage RE classes and teachers in the planting, tending, and harvesting projects. The initial beds will be in the existing “planter” areas in the front and side of the church, which are easily accessible and also visible to the community. The plan will be to grow the size and extent of the planting as the idea takes hold and interest of the landscape committee, children and parents, and volunteers expands.

**Timeline for Completion:** Planning will occur during the fall and winter of 2010-11, with planting in the early spring of 2011.

**Lead:** Jana Perea

## **Communications Plan**

First Unitarian Church has several communication methods already in place, which we plan to utilize to share information and invite participation in our activities:

- Weekly announcements during the service
- Weekly insert in the order of service
- Monthly newsletter (available electronically as well)
- All church email announcements (as needed)
- Event table in Fellowship Hall
- Green Sanctuary Committee webpage

In addition, one of our projects is to develop a Green Sanctuary Corner in Fellowship Hall, where we can post information about environmental issues, committee activities, and sustainable living strategies, as well as interact with interested members and visitors.

We will work closely with members of other committees, including Religious Education, Adult Education, Facilities, Landscaping, Social Action, Worship and the Board of Directors. One of our committee members will serve as a liaison to the Facilities and Landscaping committees.

First Unitarian Church already has an established working relationship with South Side Day Nursery, EnergyCare, Central Reform Congregation and the Holy Ground Collaborative. We hope to continue to build on those relationships through our projects and activities.

## **Application Instructions**

Using this format, submit your electronic application to [greensanctuary@uua.org](mailto:greensanctuary@uua.org). If you cannot email the application, please contact Robin Nelson, Program Manager for Congregational Stewardship Services at the UUA, for snail-mail instructions.

There is a one-time \$100.00 application fee which should be submitted by check. Mail your check to the address at the top of this application payable to the UUA, clearly indicating it is your Green Sanctuary application fee and include your congregation's name and City, State. For additional information and advice for preparing your application, feel free to contact Robin Nelson via email at [RNelson@uua.org](mailto:RNelson@uua.org) or by phone at 617.948.4251.