

Green Sanctuary Committee Activities

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

4501 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64110 ** 816-531-2131** allsoulskc.org

Mission: Educate and Encourage action demonstrating our seventh principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part."

- ❖ **Award:** On behalf of the congregation, we received **Environmental Excellence Award for outstanding business/nonprofit** in the Kansas City region from Bridging the Gap in October 2004.
- ❖ **Recycling:**
 - We take glass, metal, plastics, paperboard, and cardboard (used in the church) to the community recycling center. In order to do this, we purchased bins that fit under the kitchen food preparation table, and intermediate bins in the parking lot.
 - We receive paper from congregants and neighbors in our Abitibi bin, at the rate of approximately 25 tons per year.
 - We negotiated a price increase in 2004 so that Abitibi now pays us \$25 per ton for paper, and picks it up approximately biweekly.
 - Initially committee volunteers were emptying the bins from the offices, but this activity has been incorporated into congregational life and custodial help now performs this task.
 - We purchased a can crusher, and arranged for the youth to start recycling cans and earn money from the activity.
 - We receive batteries, which we recharge or recycle.
 - The Coming of Age youth and their advisors began recycling ink jet cartridges as a fund raiser.
 - We have sponsored an electronics collection, when there was a regional drop-off event.
- ❖ **Coffee:**
 - We partnered with other social justice groups in the church to establish the practice of serving fair trade, organic, shade-grown coffee in the church. It is now a staff function to order and make the coffee. Although initially, we purchased air pots to enhance the coffee quality and publicized why it is important to spend more for air Trade, these efforts are no longer necessary.
 - We sell fair trade, organic, shade-grown coffee, tea, and chocolate as a service to members and friends. After a year, we phased out the sale of tea for lack of interest.
- ❖ **Grounds:** We worked with the grounds committee on starting composting and creating a native plant demonstration garden on the east side of the church.
- ❖ **Denominational:**
 - We contributed our input to the Statement of Conscience of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Commission on Social Witness draft, and to the final form of the statement as issued at General Assembly in St. Louis, 2006. (see <http://www.uua.org/actions/ecology/06global-warming.html>).
 - We conducted a class on Global Warming, and later a discussion group on the draft Statement of Conscience.
 - One of our members serves as Treasurer of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth.
- ❖ **Church Chat:** We co-sponsored and led a Church Chat (open discussion) on "How Green Is Too Green" – a discussion of living our Seventh Principle.
- ❖ **Social Responsibility Board:** We continue to participation in this church-wide governance of social justice programs:
 - We send a representative to each meeting
 - We sponsor monthly special offerings – KC Regional Transit Alliance, Clean Energy Campaign of the Sierra Club (opposing the coal-fired power plant near Weston), Bridging the Gap, Heartland All Species Project, and KC Food Circle.
 - We contribute regularly to the SRB bulletin board.
- ❖ **Membership:** We maintain membership in the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (formerly the Seventh Principle Project).

- ❖ **Communications:**
 - We author articles for publication in our church newsletter nearly every month.
 - We stock a pamphlet rack.
 - We publish a brochure for community outreach and education.
- ❖ **Outreach:**
 - We table at events:
 - **Farmers Exhibitions** of the KC Food Circle
 - **All Souls** Connections Fair
 - **All Souls** Celebration Sunday
 - **Shawnee Mission East Earth Fair**, with the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition
 - We have participated in a panel discussion at this event
 - **UMKC Earth Day**
 - **Walkin' Jim Stoltz "Forever Wild"** concert and multimedia show
 - We participate in the **Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition**, local interfaith environmental group. One of our members is a Director.
- ❖ **Services:** We participated in planning and presenting Religious Services:
 - **March 2004:** Assisted Guest Minister Rev. Charlotte Shivvers with "Eating Our Way through the Interdependent Web, An Ethic of Food for Unitarian Universalists"
 - **Earth Day 2005:** We presented sermonettes, readings, chalice lighting, and we funded participation of KC's Eco-Troubadour, Stan Slaughter.
 - **Earth Week 2006 events:**
 - **"Sustainable Transportation Sunday"**
 - **Forum:** Helped arrange for Dr. Jim Sheppard of UMKC, who spoke on the necessity of developing a new generation of environmental activists
 - **Documentary:** showing of Kilowatt Ours
 - Sold compact fluorescent light bulbs to raise money for a church version of the film
- ❖ **Documentaries:** We have nominated "Blue Vinyl," "The Future of Food," "The End of Suburbia," and "Kilowatt Ours" for showing in our documentary series.
- ❖ **Forums:** In addition to Jim Sheppard, mentioned above, we have helped bring Gary Gardner of Worldwatch Institute, Wes Jackson of the Land Institute, and Jeff McFadden, Missouri River specialist.
- ❖ **Sunday Lunches:** We continued to serve annual "Eat-Your-Values" lunches emphasizing local, organic, low-on-the-food-chain, and low-trash fare. These have been held at different times of year to emphasize the variety of possibilities, e.g., May 2005 and August 2006.
- ❖ **Purchases:**
 - We purchased, from the Seventh Principle Project, *Honoring Earth* worship resource, and *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* religious education resource, and presented them to the appropriate minister.
 - We purchased a bike rack for the church (and arranged a celebratory event.)
 - We purchased the church's first Earth flag. The church now routinely flies an Earth Flag, which it purchases from its facilities budget.
- ❖ **Green Sanctuary Weekend:** In 2002, we sponsored an interfaith event, featuring Saturday afternoon workshop conducted by Jim Scott, one of the Founding Board members of the Seventh Principle Project, and Rev. Katherine Jesch, the Director of Environmental Ministry
- ❖ **Certification:** We worked on certification from the UU Ministry for Earth as a Green Sanctuary; we conducted an energy audit, a key step in the process.