

APPLICATION FOR GREEN SANCTUARY CANDIDACY

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF THE EASTERN SLOPES

Tamworth NH

August 7, 2007

The original Unitarian Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes met in members' homes around North Conway NH through the 1960s but then ceased. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes (UUFES, pronounced you'-fess) was formed on June 22, 1980. This small group met biweekly for some years in the Conway Congregational Church under the leadership of extension minister Rev. Chandler Newton and lay leader Rod Forsman. In 1991 UUFES moved to Runnell's Hall in Chocorua NH. Membership grew, and in 1998 Dr. F. David Fisher was welcomed as Acting Minister and services became weekly. Rev. Fisher served for two years and was ordained by UUFES in 1999. In 2000 Daniel Schatz was called as a half-time minister and was ordained in 2001. UUFES called Rev. Mary Giles Edes to be its part-time minister in 2003. In 2005 UUFES purchased and renovated a building in Tamworth Village for its permanent home. At the UUA General Assembly in 2006, UUFES was named a Breakthrough Congregation. Membership in 2007 exceeds 100 and the congregation has just voted full-time status for Rev. Edes.

In October 2006 the UUFES Governing Board voted to begin the process of earning Green Sanctuary status. An ad hoc committee to begin the process was formed in January 2007 with Tony Federer as Chair. At the UUFES Annual Meeting on May 20, 2007, the congregation voted to amend the Bylaws to add a Green Sanctuary Committee as a Standing Committee of the Fellowship. On July 19, 2007, the Board approved this Application for Green Sanctuary Candidacy, including the following purposes of the Green Sanctuary committee:

- 1) to build awareness of sustainability, environmental, and ecojustice issues within the congregation and the community;
- 2) to encourage the Fellowship to utilize "green" practices and products in its building and grounds;
- 3) to generate commitment to personal lifestyle changes that reduce adverse impacts on the earth;
- 4) to develop ecospirituality in worship and religious education;
- 5) to lead the congregation in the process of gaining accreditation as a Green Sanctuary.

This document contains an Action Plan, a Communications Plan, and an Environmental Audit in that order. The Environmental Audit shows the status and prior actions of UUFES as of May 6, 2007. The Action Plan covers activities since then. This document constitutes an application for candidacy as a Green Sanctuary for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes.

***** **ACTION PLAN** *****

The Green Sanctuary Committee plans thirteen projects. Projects are labeled by a code, such as J2, for internal use; projects J1 and S3 have been combined with other projects.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

PROJECT W1 - INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE AND EARTH-CENTERED PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES INTO REGULAR WORSHIP

Leader: Mary Edes

Recruit members and Friends of UUFES to form a Writers' group for the purpose of creating Earth-centered writings for regular use on Sunday morning: chalice lightings, meditations, opening words, songs, etc.

Timeline: September 2007 begin some green focus on third Sunday of every month; November 2007 group formed; January 2007 group output used in services; Continuing indefinitely.

PROJECT W2 - PLAN AND CONDUCT FOUR GREEN SUNDAY SERVICES PER YEAR

Leader: Ingrid Albee

UUFES conducts green services on a regular basis. This May 27 we are dedicating a service in honor of Rachel Carson. Another ecumenical Earth Day service is planned. The religious education year will be kicked off with a service by Connie Barlow presenting "The Great Story". In addition we do a yearly Water Communion. The Green Sanctuary Committee will work with the Minister to arrange outside speakers for at least 2 Sunday services a year on environmental and ecojustice topics, including but not limited to the UU Service Committee. We anticipate further integration of Green Sanctuary concepts into each worship service as well as continuing entire services dedicated toward these principles.

Timeline: May 2007 Sunday service on Rachel Carson; Sept 2007 Sunday service on the Universe Story by Connie Barlow; continuing indefinitely.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PROJECT R1 - ARRANGE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD TRIPS FOR ALL AGES

Leader: Joy Maidment

It is our intention to go outside with the children at least once seasonally during the Religious Exploration hour to experience our immediate environment and the seasonal changes to that environment in order to foster a love of the outdoors and a sense of place. Other trips and outdoor services will be designed for both children and adults.

Timeline: Continuing indefinitely.

PROJECT R2- GREENING THE RE CURRICULUM

Leader: Joy Maidment

The focus of our children's' Religious Exploration program for the coming year 2007/2008 will be twofold, we will be learning about the Unitarian Universalist Principles and The Great Story. These choices reflect the desire to connect who we are with where we came from. Our Principles will be experienced through the SpiritPlay model with a special emphasis not only on the Seventh Principle but also on the connectedness of ourselves, our principles and our planet. The Great Story will be experienced through various means including but not limited to SpiritPlay, The Kids Book of Awesome Stuff, and The Great Story web site.

Timeline: September 2007 - June 2008

PROJECT R3 - ARRANGE STUDY GROUPS AND/OR PUBLIC TALKS

Leader: Suzanne Federer

Work in conjunction with the RE Director to arrange study groups for adults in the Fellowship, and to extend this opportunity to others in the community, at least one study group in UUFES and one in the community each year. Sponsor or Co-sponsor public talks on environmental/ecojustice issues to be held at UUFES, at least one per year. Timeline: Sept 2007 workshop on the Universe story by Michael Dowd; Fall 2007 NWEI study group Healthy Children Healthy Planet; Fall 2007 NWEI study group Sense of Place; April 2008 Food for Thought potluck with speaker from Sustainable Harvest International; Continuing indefinitely.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PROJECT J2 - DEVELOP UUFES AND ADJACENT GROUNDS AS GREEN SPACE FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES

Leaders: Claes and Vikki Thelemark

This project will lead the whole congregation in open discussion and planning of future uses for the “back yard” of the fellowship property. The project will make recommendations to be approved by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Board, and the congregation before any work begins. Some possible uses include an area for meditation, a natural area for children to play and learn in the outdoors, an organic garden and compost bins, plantings of native species, a yurt for small meetings, and bird houses, as well as expansion of our building and the parking lot. Timeline: A plan will be developed over the next few months with the goal of bringing it to a Fellowship vote at the Annual Meeting in May 2008.

PROJECT J3 - SPONSOR TALKS, INDIVIDUAL, AND COMMUNITY ACTION ON RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

Leaders: Martha Chandler and Ellen Schwindt

We will seek to make current (limited) and future UUFES investments socially-responsible. We will develop an email list of members and friends interested in socially-responsible investing and will arrange speakers and discussion groups both within the Fellowship and in the community.

Timeline: December 2007 list of interested people; Winter and Spring 2008 speakers and discussion groups.

PROJECT J4 - COOPERATE WITH AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Leaders: John and Cathy Mersfelder

This project will seek out ways to interact with the larger community. Several examples are already in the works. UUFES will host the Tamworth farmers’ market this summer. We will help with fundraising to purchase a conservation easement on the Birches Intervale Farm in Wonalancet. UUFES already has members who are involved with Sustainable Tamworth, which concentrates on locally-grown food, and other environmentally-based community organizations: conservation commissions, land trusts, and outdoor groups. Other possible organizations to cooperate with include Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany and Global Awareness Local Action in Wolfeboro.

Timeline: July 2008 special Sunday collection for conservation easement on the Steele farm in Tamworth; Summer 2008 host Farmers Market in parking lot every Saturday; June 2008 develop at least two more cooperative projects.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

PROJECT S1 - UTILIZE GREEN PURCHASING AND PRODUCTS THROUGHOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Project Leader: Kim McCabe

The scope of this project will strive to balance environmental and fiscal responsibilities in making green purchasing decisions. We will purchase products with the highest percentage recycled content available provided that the products meet acceptable use and performance standards. In addition, UUFES will strive to purchase materials that are:

- Durable, as opposed to single use or disposable items
- Non-toxic or minimally toxic, preferably biodegradable
- Highly energy-efficient
- Recyclable, but if not recyclable, may be disposed of safely
- Made from raw materials that have been obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
- Manufactured in an environmentally sound manner
- Locally-produced
- Causing minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and or recyclable materials.

Timeline: February 2008 develop purchasing procedure in conjunction with other relevant committees/individuals; July 2008 procedures in place and evaluation; improvement in practices to continue indefinitely.

PROJECT S2 - MINIMIZE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE FELLOWSHIP

Leader: Russ Maidment

The scope of this project is to identify and implement ways to reduce energy consumption. All aspects of electricity usage, building heating and domestic hot water consumption will be looked at. Means of reduction will include the mundane (i.e. signs to shut off lights) to capital improvements (i.e. on demand domestic hot water system).

Comparisons of past usage will be charted against present usage.

Timeline: Completion by June 2008.

PROJECT S4 - CHALLENGE UUFES CONGREGANTS TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL CHANGES AT HOME

Leader: Tony Federer

At least bi-monthly this project will invite the congregation to focus on a single issue that hopefully will lead to more permanent changes. Possible issues/activities include but are not limited to sharing garden surpluses, alternative gift-giving, Buy Nothing Day, book and magazine swaps, bulk purchasing including coffee and light bulbs, carpooling to church, a mentoring program, a monthly sustainability meeting, and production and sale of canvas grocery bags with logo as a UUFES fundraiser. Encourage congregants to read the leader's web site at www.ecoshift.net.

Timeline: September 2007 first newsletter column; bi-monthly or monthly through June 2008 newsletter column and associated activities. January 2008 leader to finish the ecoshift web site; June 2008 evaluation of whether to continue project.

PROJECT S5 - MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY OF BUILDING HEAT/COOLING PARAMETERS

Leader: Bill Lotz

The scope of this project will be to identify and implement ways to retain the heating and cooling systems of the Meetinghouse. A thorough and complete analysis of the insulating qualities will be conducted. Insulation R-values, roofing materials pertaining to heat reflection and use of passive solar heating as well as insulating shades are some of the items to be investigated.

Timeline: September 2007 analysis and recommendations completed. Timing of implementation will depend on approval and funding priorities.

PROJECT S6 - DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR REUSE AND RECYCLING IN THE FELLOWSHIP

Leader: Margaret Rieser and Dick Cary

Procedures for reuse and recycling need to be developed, written, and overseen. Paper use will be reduced by changes in the Order of Service, encouraging email distribution of Inclinations, and a "backside" pile. Collection bins need to be placed for recycling of paper, cans, glass, plastic, and cardboard, with someone responsible for processing them.

Timeline: October 2007 completion of procedures plan; February 2008 completion of implementation.

***** COMMUNICATION PLAN *****

Leader: Eleanor Jenkins

UUFES currently has seven methods for communication:

Inclinations – a monthly email and hard-copy newsletter

Friday MailPouch – a weekly email newsletter

www.uufes.org - a web site

Order of Service

Announcements during service

Flyers distributed on several tables

Bulletin boards both in the sanctuary and downstairs.

The Fellowship has a Communications Committee that oversees these and suggests modifications. The Green Sanctuary Committee will have a representative on the Communications Committee.

The Green Sanctuary Committee will submit at least one item for each issue of Inclinations that is connected to one or more projects. The Committee will find someone else to take over the non-UUFES environmental information that editor David Emerson has been including in the Friday MailPouch. The Committee will create and modify a Green Sanctuary page on the web site, and will produce a “green” bulletin board.

These forms of communication with the congregation will include information about the Green Sanctuary process and its projects, about changing personal habits and life styles, and about local and regional green events and issues. However, we must be careful not to overload the congregation to the point where they tune out.

UUFES ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

May 6, 2007

Green Sanctuary Committee Members

Name	Phone
Tony Federer, Chair	603-356-6769
Ingrid Albee	603-323-7969
John Chandler	603-524-3987
Martha Chandler	603-524-3987
Mary Edes	603-367-9420
Suzanne Federer	603-356-6769
Diana Libby	603-539-3444
Bill Lotz	207-636-2625
Joy Maidment	207-935-7712
Russ Maidment	207-935-7712
Kim McCabe	603-447-1260
Cathy Mersfelder	603-323-7793
John Mersfelder	603-323-7793
David Ludlow	603-323-8810
Ellen Schwindt	603-447-2898
Dick Cary	603-569-4654
Debby Cary	603-569-4654
Claes Thelemark	603-323-3369
Vikki Thelemark	603-323-3369
Lyn Slanetz	603-367-4689
Margaret Rieser	603-323-9430

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The building is used generally for Sunday Services, Tuesdays for innkeeper service or choir practice and Wednesdays for MTM Seth Austin Group. Building used on sporadic occasions otherwise.

Energy Consumption by Location

Sanctuary Space

- Nine light fixtures @ 3 bulbs each @ 100 W each.
- Pulpit 8 bulbs @ 100 W each
- Double pane windows with blinds
- Electric hot water heater - under counter type
- Ceiling well insulated, walls unknown
- Thermostats turned to 60 degrees when space not in use

Stairway

- Twenty one 16 W bulbs
- Two 100 W bulbs
- Double pane windows without shades
- Insulation unknown

First Floor

- Four 60 W bulbs
- 2X4 fluorescent lighting in Acoustical ceiling
- Double pane glass with no window treatments

Temperature kept at 68 degrees when space not in use

Basement/Utilities

New boiler Buderus hot water propane fired - 85% efficiency

Domestic hot water - tank type, propane fired. 13 years old

One wall has R-11 insulation. Other fieldstone walls have no insulation

Four 100 W bulbs. Main lighting is fluorescent

Air exchange handler. Runs 35 hours a week.

Exterior Lighting

Four 75 W bulbs

Four 150 W flood light bulbs

Fluorescent lighting on fire exit.

Date Done	Action	Comments
2005	Installed 85% propane hot water boiler	
	Procedures in place for turning off electricity for:	
3/2007	Lights in sanctuary	To OFF in service close-up list
3/2007	Computers	Always off
3/2007	Copier	Energy saver mode
	Printer	Always on
3/2007	Coffee machines	To OFF in service close-up list
3/2007	Temperature regulators on boiler	
3/2007	Thermostat settings to 60F when not in use	In opening and closing list
3/2007	Install quilted thermal shades in sanctuary	
3/2007	Preliminary energy audit	

WATER CONSERVATION

Date Done	Action	Comments
2005	Installed aerators on faucets in all sinks	

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

Date Done	Action	Comments
2006	Mugs and dishes instead of disposable cups/plates at coffee hour	
3/2007	Use of toilet tissue with 100% recycled content	Seventh Generation
3/2007	Use of cloth or recycled unbleached napkins	Seventh Generation
3/2007	Use of cloth or recycled unbleached paper towels	Seventh Generation

PURCHASING - NON-TOXIC, ORGANIC, AND RECYCLED PRODUCTS

UUFES has been using traditional cleaning supplies purchased at a local supermarket.

Everyone in the Fellowship has been purchasing supplies, without any centralized purchasing process.

Landscaping has not used any chemicals on the outside for over a year and will only use environmentally ones in the future.

Date Done	Action	Comments (on second line)
2006	Use fair trade, shade grown/organic coffee	Equal Exchange
	Use of phosphate-free, biodegradable:	
3/2007	Dishwashing detergent	Seventh Generation
3/2007	Handwashing soaps	Liquid Ivory
3/2007	Cleaning agents	vinegar and water
3/2007	Nontoxic fertilizers/pesticides/herbicides	bark mulch, fish emulsion, citrus herbicide

GREEN WORSHIP

Date Done	Action	Comments
5/2006	6 TH Source service	
7/2006	Reverence for Interconnected Web service	
9/2006	What Would Kermit Do? – On Being Green service	
10/2006	Blessing of the Animals	
10/2006	Great Story Service	
12/2006	Solstice and Winter Wheel services	
12/2006	Sermon on Green Sanctuary	
4/29/07	Service "The Case of Mother earth versus World's People"	

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Date Done	Action	Comments
4/2006	Family hike to Big Rock Cave	
9/23/06	Autumn equinox stories and crafts	
10/2006	Host NH-VT District Meeting on The Great Story	
2006	Wal-Mart movie	
2006	Arnie Alpert on water	
12/2006	Voluntary Simplicity study group	Northwest Earth Institute
1/2007	Sign at coffee hour that we are using Fair Trade Coffee	
4/28/07	Environmental Lecture Series Keith Bergman and Dennis Vienneau - Climate Project	
4/29/07	Service – “The Case of Mother Earth vs. Worlds People”	
5/6/07	Natural Treasure Hunt on church grounds	
1/25/07	Last Child in the Woods book discussion	
Spring 2007	Two Deep Ecology study groups	Northwest Earth Institute
Ongoing	Green bits in Friday MailPouch (email newsletter)	

RESOURCES

Web Sites

Sustainable Tamworth http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Sustainable_Tamworth/
Focus: Tamworth <http://www.focustamworth.org>
Tin Mountain Conservation Center <http://www.tinmtn.org>
Global Awareness Local Action <http://www.galacenter.org/>
Northwest Earth Institute <http://www.nwei.org>
Granite Earth Institute <http://www.graniteearth.org>
Coop America <http://www.coopamerica.org/>
UU Ministry for earth <http://uuministryforearth.org/>
Ecoshift <http://www.ecoshift.net>

KEY

Ch=John and/or Martha Chandler
Fe= Suzanne and/or Tony Federer
Ma= Russ and/or Joy Maidment
EK= Mary Edes and Steve Kull
KM = Kim McCabe
Me = Cathy and John Mersfelder

Memberships in Local/State Environmental Organizations

NH Audubon Society	Me, Fe, Ch,
Associated Buyers buying club	Me, Ma
Coop America	Fe
Appalachian Mountain Club	Ch, Ma, Fe, EK
Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Me, Ch
Maine Audubon Society	Ch, Ma
Wonalancet Outdoor Club	Me, Ch
Tin Mountain Conservation Center	Me, Ch
Green Mountain Conservation Group	Me, Ch
Lakes Region Conservation Trust	Me, Ch
Granite State Voters Alliance	Ch
Upper Saco Valley Land Trust	Ch
Land Trust and Alliance	Ch
Trust for Public Lands	Ch
Wildlife Conservation Society	Ch
Maine Organic Farmers GA	Ma
Silver Lake Association of Madison	EK
Tamworth Outing Club	Me
Loon Center	Me
Bearcamp Valley Garden Club	Me
Tamworth Conservation Commission	Me

Memberships in National/International Environmental Organizations

Co-op America	Fe
Defenders of Wildlife	Ch
World Wildlife Fund	Ch
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics	Fe
Wildlands Project	Fe
Population Communications International	Fe
Negative Population Growth	Fe
Sustainable Harvest International	Fe
Nature Conservancy	Me
Natural resources Defense Council	Me

Periodicals

Resurgence	Fe
AMC Outdoors	Ch, Fe, Ma, EK
Appalachia	Ch
Forest Notes	Me, Ch
The Nature Conservancy Journal	Me, Ch
National Geographic	Ma
Ranger Rick	Ma
Your Big Backyard	Ma
Green Money Journal	Fe
Synthesis/Regeneration	Fe
On Earth	Me
People, Places, and Plants	Me

Retail Catalogs

Real Goods	Ma
Seventh Generation/Harmony	Ma

Books

The Ascent of Man - J. Bronowski	Me
Awakening Earth - Duane Elgin	Fe
Better, Not Bigger - Eben Fodor	Fe
Biological Conservation - David W. Ehrenfeld	Me
Born With a Bang - Morgan	Fe
The Case Against Immigration - Roy Beck	Fe
Clean House Clean Planet	Ma
Deep Ecology for the Twenty-first Century – Sessions et al.	Fe
Desert Solitaire - Edward Abbey	Me
The Dream of the Earth - Thomas Berry	Fe
Earth Education: A New Beginning- Steve Van Matre	Ma
Earth In the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit	Fe
The Earth Path- Starhawk	Ma
Earth Ponds Sourcebook - Tim Matson	Me
Earth Prayers from Around the World - Roberts and Amidon	Fe
EarthScore – Donald Lotter	Fe
The Edge of The Sea - Rachel Carson	Me
The End of Nature - Bill McKibben	Me, Fe
Evolution in Action - Julian Huxley	Me
50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth	EK
Forest & Crag - Laura & Guy Waterman	Me, Fe
From Lava to Life - Morgan	Fe
The Great Turning - David Korten	Fe
The Great Work - Thomas Berry	Fe
The Greening of Faith – Carroll et al.	Fe
Green Space Green Time - Connie Barlow	EK, Fe, Ma
The House We Live In - Blau & Rodenbeck	Me
Human Heredity - Ashley Montagu	Me
The Humanist Frame - Julian Huxley	Me
Investing With Your Values - Brill et al.	Fe
Ishmael - Daniel Quinn	Fe, Me
It's Easy Being Green: A Handbook for Earth Friendly Living	KM
Keepers of the Night	Ma
Keepers of the Animals	Ma
Keepers of the Earth	Ma
Last Child in the Woods	Ma, Fe
Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update – Meadows et al.	Fe
Living In The Future - Isaac Asimov	Me
Living The Good Life - Helen Nearing	Me
Mammals Who Morph - Morgan	Fe
Maybe One - Bill McKibben	Fe
The Northern Forest - Dobbs & Ober	Me
The Organic Cooks Bible	KM
The Origin of Species - Charles Darwin	Me, Fe
Our Ecological Footprint - Wackernagel and Rees	Fe
Reading the Forest Landscape - Tom Wessels	Me, Fe
River Out Of Eden - Richard Dawkins	Me
Sacred Spaces- Margaret Silf	Ma
A Sand County Almanac - Aldo Leopold	Fe, Me
Science & Survival - Barry Commoner	Me
The Sea Around Us - Rachel Carson	Me

Silent Spring – Rachel Carson	Fe, EK, Me
Small is Beautiful - E.F. Schumacher	Fe, Me
So Human An Animal - Rene Dubois	Me
So You Want to be an Environmentalist	Ma
Spiral Dance- Starhawk	Ma
The Strategy of Life - Clifford Grobstein	Me
Thinking Like a Mountain – Seed et al.	Fe
Times Arrow & Evolution - Harold F. Blum	Me
The Universe is a Green Dragon - Brian Swimme	EK
The Universe Story - Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry	EK, Fe
An Urchin in The Storm -Stephen J. Gould	Me
Voluntary Simplicity - Duane Elgin	Fe
Wilderness & The American Mind - Roderick Nash	Me
The Year of The Turtle - David M. Carroll	Me

And many others, including field guides and biology texts