



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
Multicultural Growth and Witness
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210-1409

Congregations working to restore Environmental Sustainability and Justice, and renew Spirit.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent
Mary Louise Holly

June 30, 2016
marylululight@gmail.com

Dear Mary Louise and the UU Church of Kent,

I am glad to report that the Green Sanctuary review team has approved your application for Candidate status. Clearly your congregation has done and continues to do great education, justice and outreach work. The scope and depth of your projects in every focus area and across the congregation is impressive. It is not hard to see how your congregation works to live our UU values in the larger world, and can be a model and influence in your larger community.

The review team wanted to point out a few details. The electronics recycling seems to be a sustainability project unless you develop aspects of it to connect with partnership in front line communities. Please share your reasoning if you decide to keep the project where it is currently as an environmental justice project.

As you continue, please keep record of details (measurements, quantities, stories) that will help the review team understand the project strategy and actual impacts of the projects. This kind of detail helps your congregation understand actual impacts, which we are discovering, is helpful to the long-term commitment of congregations. In addition, we are learning from many congregations that it supports our long term commitment to at times very difficult work to use worship and celebration to go beyond education to ground our environmental work in UU theology and spirituality. Help the review team see how you do this in at least one of your projects.

In the case of environmental justice in particular, please provide specifics about the front line community, and ways you partner with them (as much as possible, sharing leadership and work). You make a beautiful statement; "learning both from these groups and engaging in generative conversations and actions that build community *with* and *for...*" In your final application, please help the review team understand in particular how that functions and what that "community with" looks like.

Also, the review team saw how the application might serve your congregation very well as an historic and communications document. It is quite thorough. In fact, we were wondering if the fullness of this report might work well in your congregational web site if you do not have it there already.

As you can imagine, the volunteers of the review team have a lot to review. For your final report/application for Accreditation please focus on the projects accomplished to fulfill the requirements. Additional projects responding to more of your “recommended actions” could be added as an appendix. This way the application reflects the breadth of your work, while at the same time the review team does not need to wade through everything to focus on required work. Thanks for your help with this.

Your dedication and creativity is inspiring. We look forward to learning from and celebrating with you as you accomplish these beautiful and important works.

For All Earth,

Karen

Rev. Karen Brammer
UUA Green Sanctuary Program Manager