

Environmental Justice Team Annual Report – Fiscal 2020

In 2018, a Social Justice Team on Climate Change/Environment was established. It adopted as its mission statement the following: “UUC will be dedicated to preserving and protecting the earth. In our work, we will combine service, advocacy for structural change, and a focus on environmental justice; we will promote environmental justice for the peoples of the earth.” It selected five areas of concentration.

- Green Sanctuary recertification
- Reviving Green Team
- Education
- Issues & Action
- Spiritual Care for the Earth

This team’s official congregational mandate expired at the end of the 2019 fiscal year, and in early fall of 2019, a new Environmental Justice Team was formed to carry on the mission.

The EJT met monthly through February and worked to establish a fresh organizational concept since there were so many opportunities presented. It was clear that the Green Sanctuary recertification group remained committed to that process. Several team members are active in the Citizens Climate Lobby. Some others are focused on congregational energy conservation. And so on. Most of us are working on more than one of the sub-topics, but typically not all.

We are waiting to hear from UUA about our Green Sanctuary designation renewal. We do not expect any issue with the re-certification.

We have used our monthly full group meeting time to keep each other informed on our various sub-group activities and general environmental issues. We created a Slack virtual workspace where the sub-teams can post and browse by their topics of interest, including ongoing conversations. This has been particularly useful during stay-at-home.

We continue to maintain the Environmental Justice Team list-serv for big stuff, but having the Slack multi-topic workspace keeps our main email inboxes less crowded.

In February, Greg Evanylo facilitated a congregation-wide Climate Action Planning workshop to help us identify and assemble around key opportunities for action related to climate change. It was well attended and did indeed help us gain focus and make personal commitments to specific actions, moving beyond observation and complaining.

There are many team members, both those who have attended the group meetings, and those who simply stay informed and take personal or sub-group action. Anyone who is interested is invited to join the EJT list-serv and the EJT Slack workspace.