



Green Sanctuary
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
24 Farnsworth St
Boston, MA 02210-1409

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

Hope Unitarian Church Tulsa, OK
Richard Jackson

February 27, 2015

Dear Richard and the people of Hope Unitarian Church,

I am delighted to tell you that your **congregation has been awarded Green Sanctuary Accreditation**. Getting to this point requires so much determination, creativity and resilience – all qualities that the review team felt were reflected well in your application. The team was truly grateful that your application was done so clearly, including very helpful photographs, that it was quite easy to work with.

The review team (all volunteer congregational members such as yourselves) felt strongly that while it would have been easy to feel intimidated by the apparent lack of resources, your leadership and community overcome challenges and have been “almost prolific in dealing with some of these issues!” You took on challenges with a high degree of success. Even one disappointment seemed rather promising. (The March 2014 Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry’s Hope-hosted community outreach IPL seminar may have seemed low in participation, but the fact that they were from 8 organizations seemed quite excellent!)

In addition, the team acknowledged that your systematic analysis of the energy audit, coming up with options and implementing recommendations was very well done and creative. Along with your Sustainable Living work, the projects in Worship and Celebration, Religious Education and Environmental Justice reveal ongoing activity, broad ownership within your congregation, deepening understanding, and great possibility for broad and deep impact. We are inspired by your work.

Your long-term commitment to serving marginalized communities through Feed the Homeless Dinner is a major undertaking, and exemplary. Your application makes it clear that you also understand the broader goal of developing relationships across cultural boundaries to address the intersection of oppressions as you make a difference for the environment. Your work in collaboration with organizations like A Third Place, Sierra Club,

Coalition for Climate Change, and West/Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) brings you closer to this reality. It is these kinds of intentional efforts that will help our Unitarian Universalist congregations have real impact for environmental justice.

We encourage you to celebrate and revel in the beauty of our world as you enjoy your accomplishments. Please remember that you are not alone. We hope you reach out to the Green Sanctuary Program or other aspects of our faith community when you need support.

With deep appreciation for your environmental ministry,

For All Earth,

Karen

Rev. Karen Brammer, Manager
UUA Green Sanctuary Program