

1. Some of you know quite a lot about our Green Sanctuary. Some of you have never even heard of it. So today we would like to share with you the history of the accomplishments, successes and struggles in our process of fully embracing of our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: “We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.”
2. You see our wonderful planet up here?
3. When we first gave this presentation, we started out with 15 slides of air pollution, garbage dumps, melting glaciers, and so forth. But that is unnecessary. You know as much as we do about the environmental crisis.
4. Most of you know that Kurtland Davies is a unabashed tree-hugging, wilderness-hiking, ocean-loving, evangelistic environmentalist. Some call him a fanatic. When we first moved to Ormond Beach, about 6 years ago, Kurtland reveled in exploring his new environment, but he was also frustrated. So many of the wondrous ecosystems here were in dire danger. When he read the newspaper or environmental articles, he just felt like giving up. After all, he is just one person.
5. We are just one couple. What could we do to help save our planet?
6. We decided to ask our UU Society to help. We knew there were many people here who felt the way we did. First, we took a good look at our own backyard.
7. We have an unusual backyard. If you haven't spent some time back there, please do. According to local native plant experts, it's a rare and endangered ecosystem – a coastal hammock with sandy soil, lots of oaks and palms and palmettos, a small wetland and many different varieties of bushes and lots of.....
8. Uh, oh! Invasives! Do you know these fellows? The air potato vine is one of the most prolific, invasive habitat killers in Florida.

9. And they were everywhere. What could we do? They were so many and we were just two! (Wait a minute. How did Dr. Seuss get in here?)

We talked to people who had been here a long time – Shirley Owens, Natalie and Gordon Williamson, Cliff Jackson and others. Many dedicated people had been working for years and years to keep this little piece of nature healthy.

10. It seemed an impossible task, but we were determined. We invited our UU friends and our native plant society friends to several “Potato Vine Love-out” Saturdays. About 20 people showed up and pulled, cut, stuffed bags, picked up loose potatoes and hauled everything to the garbage. We got most of the vines out. But, guess what? They came back. We didn’t want to use poisons. What could we do?

11. In the spring of 2006, one woman in our congregation made a public commitment. She said, “I will go out into that woods every day and dig out those little vine sprouts, one by one, until they are all gone. I don’t care if it takes me forever.” You know Fay Dawson. She inspired us. And her husband, Bob, came to help.

12. So for many months, a few of us – Fay and Bob, Pastor Bud, Barbara Shablick, Cile Rice, Nancy Boyette - showed up a few days a week, and took a few square feet of ground, sat down and dug up every single sprout, no matter how tiny. It was hot. We were sweaty and scratchy and dirty and exhausted. Bob Dawson broke his ankle when he stepped in a hole. Pastor Bud brilliantly decided to work in his bike shorts and t-shirt one day and was covered with poison ivy for months – and still has the scars to prove it. We were stung by bees and red ants.

13. But - one by one, foot by foot, root by root, we got them all. And last fall, when the parents of our R.E. children came and asked if the

kids could help, we couldn't find any potato vine for them to dig out. So we started them on other vines and some Boston Ferns.....

14. And they contemplated....

15. And they pulled.....

16. And they celebrated each root that let go.

17. And now we have a coastal hammock with almost no potato vines,

18. ...with delicate native flowers we found hiding under the vines,

19. ...and beauty berry bushes....

20. ....and oaks and palm trees that can breathe and bathe in the sun

21. ....and homes and food for our birds.....

22. ...and other animal friends.

23. And then we were inspired to take a giant step and become a Green Sanctuary. We don't even remember how we learned about Green Sanctuary or what inspired us to go for it, but in the fall of 2006, we gathered a small group of people who were interested in greening our UU. We sent for the materials from the UU Ministry for Earth.

**24. The purpose of being a UU Green Sanctuary is to walk the talk of our Seventh Principle:**

“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” A Green Sanctuary is:

- A congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community.

25. There are four areas of action to become a Green Sanctuary:

- Sustainable Living
- Education
- Worship and Celebration
- Environmental Justice and Community Outreach

26. One of the first things we did was a garbage audit. Separating and weighing garbage and recycling was messy, so of course our RE kids had a great time!

27. We found out that we were not doing very well with our recycling. We were making a lot of garbage. We also audited our energy use, cleaning supplies, paper supplies and many other areas.

After all the audits were done, our Green Team sat down and brainstormed about what we could start to do – our first steps. We developed an action plan for our first year. It was quite ambitious, but momentum has carried us along and we have accomplished a lot – in fact, almost everything in our plan. And the enthusiasm of the few infected others. Our Green Team has grown and new people keep stepping up into leadership roles.

Here is what we have accomplished in one year.

In the action area of sustainability:

28. We continue to protect bio-diversity in our coastal hammock by removing harmful invasive species and planting natives. This is Barbara Schablick and Kurtland resting after a hard day's weeding. Recently, we received a \$2500 grant from the Florida Native Plant Society to complete the removal of invasive plants and trees. Several camphor trees, pepper trees and two large areas of non-native tall grass were removed from the ecosystem. We will be planting native trees, shrubs and grasses to replace what was removed.

29. Sharon Rich designed and planted a habitat garden for butterflies and other pollinators in an area of our property that used to be invasive grass. Go see it. There are beautiful butterflies.

30. We purchased new energy efficient stoves and a restaurant type coffee machine that saves energy and prevents waste of coffee and water. We received a grant of matching funds to replace the rest of the appliances from a friend of Bonnie Bostrom. We will be purchasing new dishwashers soon. We changed every light bulb that we could to CFL.

31. We are using 100% recycled paper in our office, kitchen and rest rooms and have switched to environmentally safe cleaning products. We have found a local company, A World of Green, that provides us with products that are so safe you can drink them! I wouldn't advise it, though. It still tastes bad! I am using them at home now, too.  
(Colleen or Brochures)

32. We recycle aluminum cans directly and have made enough money to pay for the children's garden. Thank you to Ron and Debbie for hauling the cans to the center. Please bring your rinsed and drained and flattened cans and put them in the outside recycling bin on the side of the building near the air conditioners.

We are recycling all tin cans, bottles, plastic and paper that we use at UU. Unfortunately, to do that, a few of us have to take it home with us, but that is still better than before. If you are willing to take a turn doing this, please let us know.

33. In the action area of Worship and Celebration, our Green Team has led three worship services about our relationship to the earth. Pastor Bud makes reference to environmental appreciation and responsibility in almost every Sunday service.

34. In the action area of Education, we provide environmental lectures, films, and discussions that are open to the community. Kurtland is going to give a series of environmental classes.
35. We participate in various community environmental events, such as the Halifax River clean-up. We provide regular information about the environment in our newsletter and website.
36. Our children's religious education program, with key Green Team member Debbie Johnson in the lead, emphasizes environmental responsibility on a regular basis.
37. The summer camp included a lot of environmental activities, including the beginnings of the children's herb garden.
38. Just last month, with the help of Joel Tippens, and his organization called "Salt of the Earth," we added an organic, intensive vegetable garden in raised beds in the children's play area.
- 39 - 40. Just a few weeks ago, Terri and Ed Kolaska helped the RE children plant their gardens.
41. And in just that short time the garden has grown from this....
42. To this. The children are enjoying watching their "salad" grow.
43. And playing in the new dirt and sand area.
44. Another wonderful friend, Bob Van Twyver, whom I call "compost Bob" brought us a hand made water cistern. Ron placed it near the new garden area and hooked it up to the roof gutters so we will have plenty of rainwater for our gardens. Just last week, Kurtland and Chris Gruner built a compost bin. You are welcome to bring grass

cuttings and vegetable kitchen scraps, egg shells, and coffee grounds from home to add to the pile.

45. We will continue to partner with Salt of the Earth to help create edible gardens throughout Volusia County, especially in low income neighborhoods. Anyone can help. Be sure to let us know if you want to join in.

46. We helped to revive the Earth Day Celebration in Ormond Beach this year. Last year, it had been cancelled due to “lack of interest!”

47. And we had a high level of participation at a larger Earth Day celebration at Washington Oaks park. It was very hard work, but we have such an enthusiastic large group now that the sharing of the work made it all possible.

48. The kids made earth day buttons and enjoyed eating solar s'mores and playing with solar toys.

49. In the action area of environmental justice, we are well on our way to reaching our goal to become a beacon of sustainability in our community. We have had several nice articles about our Green Sanctuary, the hammock restoration and our solar.

50. We have begun to form partnerships with other organizations to work on environmental justice issues. One is FUSE, Faiths United for Sustainable Energy. We had our first organizing meeting with several churches in attendance and we hope to grow into a very active local group.

51. And last, but by no means least, we have power! Sun power! Look at that pretty roof!

52. Last spring, Solar Fit installed a solar hot water heater, two solar attic fans and a 10 K solar photovoltaic system to produce our own electricity!

53. Because we had reduced our energy bills even before the solar installation, it has been hard to determine exactly how much money we are saving, but we have reduced our energy use by around 45%. This installation will pay for itself in less than 10 years even if the electric rates don't rise at all.

54. We have been so impressed by what we learned about solar that several of our families have installed solar. Solar-Fit gives UU members special discounts and makes a donation to the UU each time a member installs solar.

55. Getting to our UU solar wasn't a short or easy process. We made a few mistakes along the way, and we learned a great deal. You know how non-profit organizations work. We are all volunteers. And we are all enthusiastic about what we are doing. And have different ideas about how it should be done. Our biggest lesson was to make sure that we make decisions in a true consensus mode. That didn't always happen. But we were lucky. We have real mavericks! You know --- the group is going along, running with the program, and everyone is saying "Yes, Yes. Let's do it!" And then suddenly someone yells, "Waaaiitt a minute!" That's a maverick. They have a different way of looking at where we are going and they seem to throw a wrench into the process. But not really. Groups such as ours desperately need people like this. And at UU, boy, have we got them!

One maverick said, "You can't give a job like this to one solar company without taking bids from others!" DUH! Another said, "If we have solar electricity, isn't having a separate hot water heater redundant?" As it turned out, no, it isn't. One member of our Board of Directors sent us 43 questions on the day we thought we were going to get a decision! And every one of those questions was legitimate and important. But welcome? Well, no, not at the time. But later we saw their value. There were other "Wait a minute!" moments. Some

led to changes. Some led to clarification. Some to verification. Some are still going on.

Sometimes, unfortunately, no one yelled, “Wait a minute!” and it hurt the process. For instance, both our by-laws and common sense require that to borrow a substantial amount of money, we need to seek the approval of the entire congregation. We forgot. The board forgot! But we certainly were reminded soon enough. Even those who supported the project wanted to be asked. And they had that right. Over time, the “wait a minute” moments have led us to more connectedness, between Green Team members, between the Team and the Board, and within the entire congregation.

56. And when it was done, we had a huge celebration. Green Team member, Ron Watkins, made a giant switch to throw from FPL to the sun!

57. Mayor Costello of Ormond Beach presented the UU with a proclamation praising our efforts for the earth.

58. Now we are no longer just the 2 of us. Our Green Team has grown and grown. Here are Sharon Rich, Cliff Jackson, Pastor Bud Murphy, Chris Gruner and Jeanne Young, Terri Kolaska and Bren Tart.

59. And Barbara Schablick, Bob and Faye Dawson, Natalie and Gordon Williamson, Ron Watkins and Ashara Derouin, Steve McLaughlin and Carla Christianson.

60. And Cathy Jackson, who hunted all over to find 100% recycled computer paper, who saves and reuses envelopes. Who makes sure that doors are closed to save on air conditioning. Who goes around turning off unused lights.

61. And Debbie Johnson, our RE Director, with some of her garbage sorters.

62. And all of you! You are helping - using china instead of paper plates, separating recyclables, turning off unused lights, and tolerating temperatures just a few degrees warmer, doing everything we can do to use less energy and produce less garbage.

We will not stop here. We will go on until we are as green as we can be – as individuals, as a congregation, as a community.

63. You bought Earth Day Every Day t-shirts and canvas bags. We still have some and they are on sale now.

64. The painting of Ormond Loop on the t-shirts was donated for our use by another friend of the Green Sanctuary, Don Kennedy.

65. We don't know how long it will take for us to be an official Green Sanctuary through the UUMFE. We hope to submit our final application by the end of the year. But we are already a Green Sanctuary in our hearts and minds, and in our activities. You are all a part of our Green Sanctuary.

66. We do it because we have only one planet. We all need our planet. And every single thing in it. And the planet needs us.

67. Maybe you are just one person, maybe we are a small organization, but we can do a lot.

Please come up here, all of you Green Team members.  
And please come and take tours of the hammock and the gardens after the service.