

*Green Sanctuary*

*Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations*

*24 Farnsworth Street*

*Boston, MA 02210*

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

First Parish Bedford, MA April 23, 2015

Michael Akillian mike.akillian@gmail.com

Dear Michael and the good people of First Parish Bedford,

I am delighted to deliver the news that your congregation is now an Accredited Green Sanctuary! Congratulations all. The review team was inspired by the level of dedication and creativity they found through the report of the environmental ministry of your congregation. It seems that this ministry is part of who you are as a congregation, for which we are deeply grateful.

From your ongoing excellent religious education work including an imaginative approach to necklace making, to the integration of this ministry in your worship and celebration, there are many examples of skillful and compelling work. Your food projects reach into people’s lives, and (as with replacing shrubbery with vegetables) clarifies your priorities beautifully. Your bus service extends beyond your congregation into coalition and presence to those who tend to be marginalized. The team felt strongly how valuable your authenticity and commitment are, along with your willingness to take risks.

All of these qualities will be so necessary as we position ourselves as people of faith to leverage change and be better partners to those most impacted by climate disruption and environmental degradation. We thank you for your beautiful work and feel certain you will continue this ministry into the future.

One last note is that we believe your experiences could benefit other congregations. Your projects will be added to the new Green Sanctuary searchable database so congregations who wish to be in touch about particular projects can find you. We would like to suggest that you consider sharing some of your more unusual work through the Green Sanctuary email list where leaders throughout the continent can connect with it. Finally, we hope you will consider supporting one of your team members to become a volunteer coach for congregations who want additional support as they work on Green Sanctuary.

With deep regard and thanks for your ministries and

For All Earth,

Karen

Rev. Karen Brammer

UUA Green Sanctuary Program Manager