

# Unitarian Church of Barnstable Green Sanctuary 2030: Recertification Application

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# Congregational Profile Unitarian Church of Barnstable

The Unitarian Church of Barnstable has a rich history dating back to the mid- 1600s, and consequently, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a well-recognized symbol of the early days of the Village of Barnstable.

Destroyed by fire in 1905, the present structure was designed by Guy Lowell, architect of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, among many other noteworthy structures. The church was re-built in 1907, and it sits prominently on Cobb's Hill in the Old King's Highway Historic District and the Cobb's Hill Historic District. Inside, the sanctuary is a lovely space, inviting contemplation.

The beating heart of the church, however, is our minister, Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper, and the multi-generational congregation, which brings the inclusiveness of a welcoming message and culture. Membership is presently 185 including members of varying ages, genders, sexual orientations, religious backgrounds, and abilities. That such a small congregation can respond to one another and the larger community in such consistent and meaningful ways inspires and encourages us forward. Green Sanctuary has been a significant part of the fabric of UCB for twenty years, and has Rev. Dr. Harper's full support, keeping our focus on the Seventh Principle. The congregation took the opportunity to affirm that support at our semi-annual meeting on June 11.

Our response to injustice too has a long history. During the "Reverse Freedom Rides" of 1962, people of color were bussed to Barnstable and were told that the Kennedys would find them jobs and housing. Rev. Kenneth Warren, minister at the time, with congregants and community members met the busses and filled those needs. Congregation member and racial justice activist, Margaret Moseley, led the effort. Recently, a similar event happened when a member of our congregation opened her home to six of the Venezuelan immigrants who were flown to the area by Florida's governor in 2022.

We acknowledge that our church sits on unceded ancestral ground that belonged to the Wampanoags, People of the First Light. Extensive research, conducted by our Parish Council Chair and another member, as well as outreach to a tribal member, has informed our land acknowledgement statement. The statement has been discussed and approved by our UCB Parish Council and includes our intention to further our connection to the Wampanoag. That statement was supported by the congregation after discussion and a vote on June 11.



We recently voted on and passed the 8th principle.

A building more than one hundred years old needs attention, and that attention requires approval every step of the way by historic preservation entities. A lengthy assessment was recently completed, and work has begun to make the necessary structural improvements, while making the building tighter and more energy efficient in the process. A capital campaign involving the congregation and the wider community, along with grant funding, has combined to fund the project. The building, as historic as it is and as important to preserve as the wider community believes, is only a building. Its importance is the work done here to support our principles and the opportunity for connection it provides to everyone and our entire church community.

#### **Unitarian Church of Barnstable 3330**

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Membership: 185 members, several visitors on a regular basis.

#### **Education:**

# Children: Fourteen children and youth

# Adults: Varies, according to program or workshop, Average twenty-five

Location: Semi-Rural

#### Mission:

"We are a welcoming congregation, of and for all ages; working for justice and compassion in our world; Encouraging spiritual growth and thoughtful dialogue."



## Congregational Transformation Unitarian Church of Barnstable

The congregation of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable has been significantly transformed in the last several years.

Energy Efficiency and Green Building progress: The installation of solar panels, and the efforts of the UCB Building Operations Committee has resulted in our church reducing its annual carbon footprint by 63%.

We were a runner-up in the Interfaith Power and Light Cool Congregations Energy Saver challenge and participated in their Cool Planner category.

Renovation of our historic building funded through grants, donations, and community outreach has continued to tighten the building envelope and has led to further carbon reductions. We have reduced our Carbon footprint 63% since 2017.

We joined a team of 6 faith-based organizations, led by Interfaith Power and Light, to apply for the Federal Inflation Reduction Act Renew Americas Non-profits funding to further improve our building energy saving and efficiency. Results are pending. We also assisted two other Cape Cod faith communities serving environmental justice communities to join this grant opportunity.

Justice efforts have also greatly expanded through programs initiated by members of the congregation, and led by Rev. Dr. Harper including:

- Black Lives Matter standouts
- Community Connections- a UCB group donates monthly to various local groups needing support. An example includes packing snack bags for food insecure kids, providing food for the weekend.
- 3. Justice for All Committee
- 4. Energy Café- bringing energy saving opportunities to the Environmental Justice community.
- Providing monthly dinners at a local homeless shelter
- 6. Sharing a monthly split plate with various local organizations engaged in caring for the broader community.
- 7. Reproductive Justice- UCB members are joining weekly standouts in support of reproductive justive, led by Rev. Dr. Harper
- Separate mention goes to a church member who took in 6 Venezuelan immigrants flown to Martha's Vineyard by Florida's governor, even as she deals with her own health issues
- 9. Our Children and Youth Ministry programs emphasize care for the earth and all its inhabitants. Older youth are working with the homeless population.



- 10. Our minister, Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper offers workshops and speaks eloquently and often on justice and care for our world and one another.
- 11. UCB has recently approved a Land Acknowledgement statement, recognizing we are on unceded ancestral land of the Wampanoags.
- 12. Our proposed Green Sanctuary recertification has received the full support of the Parish Council. Congregational approval was formalized at the June 2023, semi-annual Congregation-wide meeting.
- 13. As part of our Action Plan, we will be developing ways to measure the impacts of the future work planned.

Sheila Place: "As a member for seventeen years, and second time Chair of Green Sanctuary, I'm moved by how much has changed in this beloved community."

#### Opportunities:

- 1. Assessing the UCB Congregation's commitment to mitigate climate change through their individual practices.
- 2. Continue to raise awareness about climate change, specifically as it relates to Cape Cod's unique risks and risks to Environmental Justice (EJ) community. This can be done by informing the congregation through programs, such as speakers and films, as well as opportunities for direct action, including the benefits of local farmers' markets and hosting plant-based meals.
- 3. Continue and strengthen collaboration between Children and Youth Ministries and Green Sanctuary.
- 4. With Building and Operations committee, continue to identify and implement energy saving and renewable and sustainable building operation and maintenance opportunities.
- 5. Broaden support for UCB groups like Community Connections and Justice for All, including Faith Communities Environmental Network [FCEN], and the Energy Cafe
- 6. Support local BIPOC events.
- 7. Help support and participate in upcoming "all church reads" and workshops.
- 8. Recognize and celebrate the energy saving accomplishments of UCB members, which may help encourage others.
- 9. Continue to identify energy saving and earth friendly opportunities in the kitchen such as upgrade current refrigerator/freezer which is oversized for recent needs and not the most efficient solution.



# Social Justice Unitarian Church of Barnstable

As stated in our profile, UCB has a long history of social justice. The Justice Team has determined that their focus this year will be racial justice and women's health. This is only part of the wide-ranging justice work that is done in this congregation.

Under the sponsorship of the Faith Community Environmental Network (FCEN), of which we are a founding member, and working with local energy suppliers, members of the congregation have been trained to be Energy Ambassadors leading workshops at church and in the Environmental Justice (EJ) community.

Launching their outreach through Energy Cafés, meetings at faith community locations, the Energy Ambassadors hope to:

- 1. Increase access to energy efficiency education, particularly among families in Falmouth and Barnstable, whether they rent or own their home.
- 2. Help enlist households in environmental justice (EJ) communities to receive a no-cost, home energy assessment and other energy-saving services and benefit from incentives from energy suppliers, Cape Light Compact and National Grid. These incentives, widely adopted by the more secure among us, are not reaching many households in EJ communities-- specifically households with low and moderate income, people of color, and/or those with language barriers.
- 3. Offer information and assistance to income-eligible ratepayers to get significantly reduced rates on their Eversource (electric) and National Grid (natural gas) energy bills or apply for fuel assistance.

#### The Community Connections Group:

- 1. Finds volunteers to pack lunches one day a month for children who face food insecurity (Cape Kids Meals)
- 2. Collects food for the food pantries in Yarmouth and Harwich
- 3. Supports other organizations such The Baby Center and Housing Assistance Corp (gifts for families at Christmas, helping with yard work, sending Valentines to children at Angel House)

UCB has recently established a Justice for All Committee which meets monthly and has the following objectives: an all church read:

1. The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together



- by Heather McGhee. (completed)
- 2. Congregation members supported the BIPOC summer festival.
- 3. A Fall Workshop: Implicit Bias. [Completed in September 2023]
- 4. We have adopted a Land Acknowledgement statement because we are on Wampanoag land. This is read at each Sunday service.

Other ongoing activities by members of the congregation:

- 1. Once a month we provide dinner for the residents of the local homeless shelter run by Catholic Charities.
- 2. Purchase grocery certificates for which the store donates 5% of the value to the Barnstable Interfaith Council which supports housing needs on Cape Cod.
- 3. Bi-monthly split plate collection for a local nonprofit.
- 4. The GSC collaborates with Children/Youth Director to develop programs and projects that engage the youth in climate and justice activities. Older youth recently participated in outreach and support for the homeless population.
- 5. Congregants assist Children and Youth Ministry Director on youth activities.

#### **Opportunities**

- 1. Implicit Bias Workshop. Learning together to uncover biases, conscious and unconscious. [Completed, September 2023]
- 2. Support Reproductive Rights, partnering with local churches and showing up at planned standouts. Support bills which strengthen reproductive rights, and participate in standouts supporting those rights in October 2023, along with members of the clergy, including Re. Dr. Harper.
- 3. FCEN partner in Energy Cafes and Energy Ambassador program.
- 4. Actively Support monthly Community Connections volunteer opportunities.
- 5. Promote purchase of grocery certificates.
- 6. Encourage support of BIPOC businesses.



#### **MITIGATION**

Unitarian Church of Barnstable

Mitigation to reduce the causes of climate change and associated global warming is essential for climate justice.

UCB has implemented an ambitious agenda of climate mitigation, engaging the entire congregation whenever possible.

Background: (excerpts from the UCB application to Interfaith Power and Light Cool Congregations Energy Saver and Cool Planner Challenges December 2022- we were selected as runner-up award winners in the Energy Saver category)

Inspiration for this project was based on the Unitarian Universalist seventh principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Having passed its 100-year birthday, our building needed significant restoration and preservation work. Having a safe, secure, sustainable building, architecturally true to its origins, and healthy for its occupants, supports our congregation and surrounding community. Increased energy efficiency is essential to meet the rising costs of operations and maintenance as well as combat climate change.

"We hope to be a model for others to fight climate change, save money and reduce their carbon footprint through sustainable building practices."

The 9,425-square-foot church sits on Cobb's Hill in Barnstable Village on Route 6A, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places with history dating back into the 1600's. After a devastating fire, the Sanctuary building was rebuilt in 1907, and includes a library, kitchen, and attic storage. The Parish Hall and office building was built in two phases in 1960 and 1980. Prior to January 2020, heat was provided solely by a gas boiler supplying hot water baseboard heating. No cooling or ventilation was available other than from portable fans and opening windows. Insulation was lacking. Our initial challenges are summarized here:

- Rising fuel and electric bills
- Cold rooms in winter (Sanctuary, library, Parish Hall): no insulation in walls or attics, existing baseboard hot water heating pipes lacking insulation.
   Poor ventilation.
- Hot rooms in summer and no air conditioning or ventilation (offices, Warren Hall, Sanctuary)
- Historic building requiring significant restoration work.



Mitigation efforts: To improve our building energy efficiency and increase occupant comfort and health and save both utility costs and reduce our carbon footprint, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects were undertaken. These efforts were guided by two professional building assessments:

- Spencer, Sullivan & Vogt, an architectural firm specializing in historic preservation, conducted a Conditions Assessment (2021). (report available on request)
  - a. A variety of repair and preservation work was indicated. This
     assessment qualified UCB for historic preservation funding from our
     town and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
  - Structural components were sound. Recommendations were made to restore the clock tower, repair worn siding, flashing, and trim in the original, historic building.
  - c. Needed repairs and upgrades to the building envelope and operating systems were detailed for both buildings.
- 2. Subsequently, after the gradual reopening of the UCB buildings in Dec 2021, following the wind down of the COVID pandemic, our utility bills increased dramatically in January 2022. Judith Holt, a green energy consultant was approached to help explain this rapid utility cost increase. She provided an indepth analysis of the previous 3 years of energy efficiency upgrades and provided an explanation of the jump in costs
  - a. The utility company rates had increased
  - We were using the building more often since the COVID pandemic had slowed
  - Solar PV electric production was low in January compared to other months
  - d. The gas boiler hot water heat for baseboard heating was used more often than the mini-split heat pumps.
    - i. With Judith Holt's advice, we began to adjust the thermostats to preferentially use the heat pumps as much as possible, with electricity generated on our roof by our Solar PV system.

Judith Holt calculated those improvements made since February of 2018, including the installation of a high efficiency new methane boiler and 27 Solar PV panels, had reduced our carbon footprint by 50% over 5 years. (January 1, 2017-December 31, 2021)

 The summary presentations to the Governing Board of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable is available for both building assessments by Spencer and Judith Holt



2. Newspaper article Sandwich Enterprise:

<a href="https://www.capenews.net/sandwich/columns/unitarian-church-makes-strides-to-be-more-earth-friendly/article\_5bdced0c-8afc-5d14-a73e-269c0ae3d5e8.html?utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=email&utm\_campa\_ign=user-share</a>

Energy saving improvements starting February 2018:

- 1. 27 Solar PV panels installed = 8.2 KW system
- 2. Lochinvar high efficiency Methane Condensing Boiler installed to power hot water baseboard heat.

More Energy Saving upgrades were made in both buildings in 2020 through 2023:

- 1. 33 Insulated windows and 4 insulated doors- April 2020
  - a. Sanctuary windows refurbished included storm windows
  - b. Parish Hall double-pane Anderson windows installed. Screens are removed in winter months to increase solar heat gain through the southfacing windows.
  - c. Four insulated exterior doors installed enhancing building safety: three in Parish Hall, one in sanctuary basement
- 2. Insulated windows throughout basement, classroom area, installed in August 2023
- 3. Mitsubishi electric heat pump mini-splits Feb 2020
  - a. 4 total: two installed in the activity room of the Parish Hall, two in offices
  - b. Carbon footprint reduced by using electricity generated by solar photovoltaic panels installed in 2018.
  - c. Two installed in Oct 2023- one in library, one in north kitchen
- 4. Insulation
  - a. Insulating to R 42: Sanctuary, Parish Hall, and office attics (Dec 2020). Connector attic (April 2022) and Library (north wall of sanctuary) (Oct 2022)
  - b. Vapor barrier placed in crawl space beneath sanctuary (April 2020)

Throughout the energy saving upgrades the congregation has been involved beyond the key leadership of the Building and Operations and Green Sanctuary Committees, the Historic preservation committee, the Governing Board and Finance committee and the Parish Council. The surrounding community has also been involved offering both municipal and individual financial support for the building projects. The congregation has been kept updated as to the progress of the various projects and supported the funding required, through both churchwide funding in the annual budget and individual donations.



#### Carbon Footprint:

Judith Holt recently updated her calculations showing that UCB has now achieved a *decrease of 63% in our carbon footprint* over the six years from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2022.

Proposed and ongoing energy savings upgrades:

- 1. Replaced basement single pane windows to double pane (installation completed in Sept 2023)
- Upgrade with heat pumps including air conditioning and bipolar air purification in sections of the church currently requiring gas boiler heat: Minisplit heat pumps were just installed in Library and Kitchen in north side of Sanctuary week of October 23, 2023)
- 3. Increasing insulation in the Sanctuary walls
- 4. Improving indoor air quality and energy recovery ventilation.
- 5. The proposed improvements could save an additional 10 tons of C02/year.

In the last dozen years, UCB has undertaken two congregational carbon footprint surveys. Due to relatively low participation, we chose instead a "Personal Practice Inventory," adapted from the Nauset UU Fellowship. Participation improved significantly and those results are currently being reviewed and follow up plans will be included in UCB's Action Plan.

Partnerships: We have collaborated on climate action with interfaith, environmental, and climate organizations

- Faith Community Environmental Network and its umbrella organization, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative: UCB is a founding leader of the now 40 plus member Faith Community Environmental Network on Cape Cod, which is a major organization within the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative. The network of faith communities helps us share "lessons learned" with other congregations through emails and monthly meetings. <a href="https://capecodclimate.org/portfolio/faith-communities-environmental-network/">https://capecodclimate.org/portfolio/faith-communities-environmental-network/</a>
- 2. Interfaith Power and Light We applied to the IPL Cool Congregations Challenge in Dec 2022 and were awarded Runner Up designation and a \$500 award in their Energy Saver category. In addition, we have joined a group application led by Interfaith Power and Light to apply for Federal funds through the Inflation Reduction Act/ Renew America's Nonprofits, to support more energy efficiency and renewable energy building improvements. We have assisted other Cape Cod Congregations



(Methodist Church of Provincetown and Nauset UU Fellowship) to complete the survey application and join this grant opportunity.

- 3. Energy Star for Congregations Portfolio Manager
  - a. We plan to enroll in the Energy Star portfolio manager software in order to benchmark our current energy use and make it easier to assess the savings in cost and carbon footprint in real time as we continue to move toward a net-zero campus

Municipal/Community involvement: Several UCB members participate in their towns' Committees relating to environmental protection and slowing Climate Change: recycling and composting, Climate Action Network groups, CapeCod 350.org, Cape Cod chapter of the Sierra Club, and town Infrastructure and Energy Committees.

The GSC and others within UCB promote sustainable diets through weekly "Green tips" in the newsletter, by offering plant-based options at church events and potlucks:

Notably we have completed the following:

- 1. Sustainability Fair in Oct 2019- with a 100% plant-based luncheon and pot-luck dinner. This two-day event included over a dozen exhibitors and talks. Four local Cape Cod Solar PV vendors joined the Fair. The Fair was combined with our sponsorship of Solar PV installations open to visitors as part of the National Solar Tour.
- 2. Promote carbon sequestration using land (e.g. planting seedlings, 2022 Earth Day project) and sharing those seedlings with local Native American tribe, the Wampanoags, Habitat for Humanity and some congregants.
- 3. Blessing for low carbon transportation and regenerative agriculture or landscaping was offered at the end of our Sunday service (9 July 2023)
- 4. Several members participated in the Recharge Cape Cod EV promotional event on June 3, 2023, as participants, exhibitors, and members of the planning committee
- 5. A regular summer visitor to our congregation offered rides in as well as information about EVs after the July 9, 2023, service.
- 6. Three members each year open their gardens as fundraising sites for UCB during the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival (early July) The gardens demonstrate a variety of native plants, organic gardening, no-mow lawn, permaculture, vegetables, and edible perennials. This tour has been an annual event for nine years with member gardens open each year.

Congregational study groups are ongoing for climate action including invited



speakers. Some recent examples include:

- 1. Rich Delaney, (Founder, Center for Coastal Studies and the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative). was our Earth Month service 2023
  - a. Every year we have an Earth Day Sunday service co-led by guest speaker, GSC and youth
- 2. Drawdown book study group (2020)
- 3. Women's group book study 2022 included
  - a. Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
  - b. Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest by Suzanne Simard.
- 4. Books read with Faith Community Environmental Network
- 5. Members on their own read fundamental documents, including the IPCC report summaries, Laudato Si, by Pope Francis

E-Waste recycling: 2022, 2023

An EWaste Recycling free drop-off day was held the past two years to honor Earth Day Month. These were open to the community:

Local Cape Cod eWaste recycler, Rick Pinney, returned to the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, offering a drive-through eWaste collection. The eWaste Coalition dis-assembles electronics and reclaims valuable rare earth metals, extracts reusable components, recycles anything else recyclable, and refurbishes items to be reused whenever possible (old computers, laptops, etc.) for students or non-profits in need. This was the second eWaste collection; the first very successful collection was held in April 2022, and sponsored by GSC in honor of Earth Day. The two collections have resulted in hundreds of pounds of eWaste being removed from the waste stream.

Letter writing campaigns are ongoing- often supporting climate action to local newspapers or legislators-

Members individually write postcards to get out the vote and the church as a group have mailed get out the vote postcards to likely environmental voters. Members support the Environmental Voter Project and UU the VOTE with donations and postcard writing

- 1. Individual members have joined the UUA project to Text to get out the vote
- 2. Individual members write letters to the editor in local papers on climate change mitigation and Pro-environmental topics

Collaborating with our youth on earth centered initiatives is ongoing, and they were an integral part of our most recent Earth Day service.



# Adaptation and Resilience Opportunities Unitarian Church of Barnstable

A. Increased Building Resilience: UCB reduced its carbon footprint by 63%, (from January of 2017 to December of 2022) according to analysis by Judith Holt, our energy consultant. Net Zero by 2030! as a UUA GS congregation would be ideal. <a href="https://sidewithlove.org/ourstories/2023/10/24/recording-and-resources-webinar-net-zero-2030-oct-green-sanctuary-community-meeting">https://sidewithlove.org/ourstories/2023/10/24/recording-and-resources-webinar-net-zero-2030-oct-green-sanctuary-community-meeting</a>

To move toward this important target, we have identified other opportunities to improve our building's operation and maintenance carbon footprint with the potential upgrades- still under discussion and consideration:

- 1. Add insulation to walls of the Sanctuary
  - a. recommended by our energy consultant, Judith Holt December 2022
- 2. Install additional Solar PV panels to our South facing roof
  - a. The initial 27 panels required a special waiver from the Old King's Highway commission- Additional permission from the Historic Commission would be needed. More Solar PV electricity generated on-site would decrease our carbon footprint as we could shift our indoor air temperature management to the electric heat pumps from the gas-boiler hot water baseboard heat.
- 3. For future consideration: The BOC has considered energy storage using a storage battery for electricity generated by the UCB Solar PV panels. This option is considered preferable to a diesel generator.
- 4. HVAC upgrade considered:
  - a. Sanctuary mini-split heat pumps. We would lower our carbon footprint using green electric heat and air conditioning- a welcome option during the increasing number of hot and humid summer days. Challenges include maintaining historic preservation details, funding, and HVAC system access to the cherished space.
- 5. Improve ventilation and air purification in the entire building which was identified as not "code-compliant" by our professional building assessment done prior to historic preservation work.
  - a. Indoor air filtering has been provided for the Sanctuary with portable "Blue Air" air filtering units. Ventilation is provided by opening windows. The Blue Air units do wonderful filtering but not purification.
- B. The newly installed mini-split heat pump units in the library and old kitchen contain air purification capability



- C. We have an active and dedicated UCB Grounds committee who do the majority of work maintaining our grounds.
  - a. An herb and pollinator garden is supported
  - Several members do on-site food waste composting adjacent to the church parking lot
  - A suggestion to consider overseeding with no-mow grass seed and microclover has been made to make possible reduction in our mowing of the grass covered areas
- D. Future consideration: Possibly install EV chargers adjacent to the UCB building. These could be used by members with a membership code and the community for a small charge fee. State incentive program available.
- E. The GSC and BOC continue to share UCB's carbon footprint reduction with the congregation, encouraging individual environmental practices. To this end, a sharing session and Energy Cafe is scheduled for January 2024.
- F. We plan to explore future participation in a Habitat for Humanity "Build" in 2024. Habitat on Cape Cod is building net zero homes for people on limited incomes. Habitat Cape Cod has been recognized nationally for building the most energy efficient and even Net Zero or net energy generating homes!
- G. GSC discussions have suggested wider church conversations on how UCB could be a community shelter for disaster reponse- similar to how our public schools and other shelters are used during hurricanes and widespread power outages. These discussions are in very early stages.
- H. Faith Community Environmental Network Partnering:
  - Green Sanctuary member, Jane Ward is working with Judith Holt in energy savings projects in additional churches through the Faith Communities Environmental Network [FCEN]. They work to provide pro bono energy assessments as well as look for opportunities for grant funding to support the efficiency upgrades.
  - 2. UCB congregants work with the Energy Café within and beyond UCB, to move toward Net Zero 2030, especially in EJ communities.
- I. Funding for Net Zero 2030: Ongoing efforts with Interfaith Power and Light and the US Department of Energy and state and local entities seek funding opportunities for energy and water saving and efficiency



#### **Green Sanctuary 2030**

#### **UCB Action Steps**

#### **Congregational Transformation toward Net Zero 2030**

- Continue to assess the Congregation's commitment to individual action with regard to climate change mitigation.
- Energy Cafe sharing sessions scheduled to begin January 2024.
- Participate in a minimum of two projects with Children and Youth Ministries.
- Develop two education initiatives based on Information from Personal Practice Inventory.
- Continue to involve the congregation in education and approval processes for continuing building energy efficiency and energy and water saving and sustainable practices upgrades

#### **Mitigation**

Proposed further energy savings upgrades include:

- 1. replacing basement single pane windows to double pane (work completed October 2023)
- 2. Upgrade with heat pumps and air conditioning in sections of the church currently requiring gas boiler heat.
- 3. Increasing insulation in the Sanctuary walls
- 4. Improving indoor air quality and energy recovery ventilation.
- 5. The proposed improvements could save an additional 10 tons of C02/year, up from current 63%
- 6. See Mitigation section for further details

#### **Adaptation and Resilience**

All of the above measures increase our resilience and help UCB to adapt. Additionally:

- Continue to raise awareness of climate change, via our minister's regular inclusion of the message in Sunday service, and educational efforts.
- Actively support a minimum of two Energy Cafes in support of energy benefits for EJ communities.
- UCB will provide support for a Habitat for Humanity build, level TBD.



 Join the UUA NET Zero 2030 movement and continue to brainstorm and consider further reductions of our Carbon Footprint

#### **Justice**

- In depth, eight hour program on Implicit Bias, completed on September 30.
- Standouts for Reproductive Justice at local medication abortion clinic throughout October, 2023. Rev. Dr. Harper is one of several clergy leaders participating.
- Previously mentioned Energy Cafes are justice oriented.
- Consider further opportunities to share our wonderful campus with community activities and resilience efforts- such as a possible shelter during weather disasters