



SUSTAINABLE SANCTUARY
coalition

July 2014 Newsletter

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Wise Words



To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

- Helen Keller (1880-1968)

SSC's Mission

Partnering with faith communities to practice environmental sustainability.

Join SSC on August 04 for:

"Ama: Blood of Our Mother"

featuring Robert Francis

What is water? Some think of it as part of the environment, by definition external. Some see water as a power source to be harnessed, or as a commodity to be used or perhaps used up. Water or Ama as it is called in Cherokee is understood to be the very lifeblood of our Mother the Earth and of ourselves.



Robert Francis (Chickamauga Cherokee) is consultant/helper for Mid American Indian Fellowships, a network of American Indian spiritual groups in Missouri and Kansas. He also serves as Fire-Keeper and ceremonialist for the Daksi Grounds, a Traditional Chickamauga Practice Grounds in Bates County, Missouri where he resides along with his wife Janet.

August 04, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Village Church, Room 127

SSC Board Member Highlight

We support and educate green team members, facility managers, and spiritual leaders.

SSC Staff

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Upcoming Events



JOCOMoveOn Event
with Dr. Riki Ott
Shawnee Mission
Universalist Unitarian
Church
July 13, 1:30 p.m.

Recycling Event
Holy Cross
July 26, 9-12 p.m.

August Program
Robert Francis--
Native American
Spirituality
August 04

Recycling Event
Platte Woods

Jerry Rees is a volunteer environmental activist focusing on faith communities. His passion and reverence for the natural world which surrounds and sustains us began in the 1970's after reading "Silent Spring" and "The Population Bomb."



He became involved in faith based environmental activities in 1992 when he joined the Justice, Peace, & Environment Committee of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. In 2001, he became its chair. In 2003, he proposed and convened a Sustainable Sanctuary Task Force. He is currently serving as the chair of Village Church's Environmental Action Committee. Under his leadership, Village Church has received three awards:

1. Bridging the Gap's Environmental Excellence Award for Non-Profits in November 2005.
2. Presbyterians for Restoring Creation's Restoring Creation Service Award in October 2007.
3. Sierra Club's 2008 "Faith in Action" Environmental Stewardship Award in June 2008.

In 2008, Jerry spearheaded his church's re-commitment to peacemaking to commemorate the 25th anniversary of PC(USA)'s original Commitment to Peacemaking in 1983. Because the new commitment included a new provision ("making peace with the earth"), at Village Church it became known as the Recommitment to Peacemaking & Earthkeeping.

In March 2011, Village Church was certified by PCUSA's Environmental Ministries as an Earth Care Congregation and is now beginning its fourth year of certification, having earned 301 points in the fields of Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach.

Beyond the walls of his church, in 2003 Jerry was an original member of Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery and helped co-found the interfaith Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC. He remains active in both organizations. In 2008, he was invited to join the steering committees of Presbyterians for Restoring Creation and Kansas Interfaith Power & Light. In October 2008, he attended The Climate Project's 3-day Global Climate Change Training for Faith Communities

August 09, 9-12 p.m.

EarthServe
September 13

with Al Gore. In 2008 and 2009, he was active in opposing legislation which would have favored the construction of two 700-MW coal-fired power plants in western Kansas.

Jerry is currently in his second year serving on SSC's Board and has become chair of its reconstituted Advocacy Team. He is also serving on the advocacy committees of Presbyterians for Earth Care and Kansas Interfaith Power & Light.

His favorite quote is: "When we think of loving our neighbors and practicing the Golden Rule, let us act realizing that we all live upwind and upstream from someone else—both in time and place."