

This attempts to describe the many different opportunities to engage in faith based social justice work in Indianapolis over the past two years. Much of this was stimulated by the launch of the Keystone Pledge of Resistance in the summer of 2013.



## RECLAIMING THE MINISTRY OF THE WHOLE

In a world experiencing unprecedented climatic, ecological, and societal change, ..., Friends are recognizing a shared calling to rediscover and reclaim traditional understandings of who we are and how we are as Friends that will help us continue to travel this Way of Love.

Noah Baker Merrill

Prophets, Midwives, and Thieves: Reclaiming the Ministry of the Whole

Noah Baker Merrill's *Prophets, Midwives, and Thieves: Reclaiming the Ministry of the Whole*, is an interesting discussion about Quakerism today and how to be in the world today. Prophets are those who have of vision of what to do, and share that with others. Midwives help implement that vision. Thieves are those who take credit for things others have done, but not they, themselves. Noah says what is important is for each of us to do the work to attain a vision of the future. We have to engage with the outside world.

## 2 YEAR EXPLOSION OF ACTIVISM

Keystone (Pipeline) Pledge of Resistance  
Nonviolence training

Writing – Blog, Letters to the Editor  
Activist photography

North Meadow Circle of Friends

Kheprw Institute (KI)  
Youth - photography summer camp  
Community forums

Black Lives Matter / Indy 10

Youth

Homelessness / Children Our Best Investment /  
Eco Fair / Butterflies

Indiana Moral Mondays

Launch / march  
Photographer

Environmental working group  
Living wage / RFRA / PRIDE march  
Nonviolence training

FCNL General Committee  
Congressman Carson's office and NOKXL

AFSC Small Group Social Change Ministry  
Indiana Moral Mondays

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)  
Earthcare, Peace and Social Concerns  
Earth walk from Scattergood to Iowa City  
continuing to be car-less

Change the Course – Training, Louisville

Glass Web Projects – Keystone story animated video

Quaker Story Project / Kenya

Kennedy King Peace Memorial Initiative

Weekly Keystone/Peace vigil

Time Bank – Nonviolent direct action training offer

Looking back over the past two years (2015), it is clear that the Keystone Pledge of Resistance campaign was key to stimulating activism in Indianapolis. Much of what is listed on this page, all of which happened in the past two years, can be traced back to the Pledge.

# QUAKER STORY PROJECT / KENYA

Quaker Stories Project

## Nandi

Library:  Select person:

Title	Description
The Twelve Girls	Tibik Taman ak Aeng
The Story of the Drought	Atindot ab Robta Nekimatakorobon

© 2015 - Quaker Stories Project

**I PLEDGE TO  
RISK ARREST  
TO STOP  
KEYSTONE XL**

CREDO CREDO

**NONVIOLENCE & ORGANIZING**



**Keystone Pledge of Resistance**

**Catalyst - stimulated activism in Indianapolis**

- Brought activists together
- National training to organize and execute nonviolent civil disobedience actions
- Trained and supports Action Leaders (e.g. monthly conference calls)
- Led to leadership and engagements FAR beyond Keystone

Via the Internet, the Keystone Pledge of Resistance brought together and trained activists to organize and execute nonviolent direct actions, including how to train others in the theory, history, and use of nonviolent civil disobedience.

## KEYSTONE TRAINING AND ORGANIZING

I pledge, if necessary, to join others in my community, and engage in acts of dignified, peaceful civil disobedience that could result in my arrest in order to send the message to President Obama and his administration that they must reject the Keystone XL pipeline.



A website was created to display the Pledge, and provide a way for those interested to sign the Pledge, and join the Keystone Pledge of Resistance campaign. “I pledge, if necessary, to join others in my community, and engage in acts of dignified, peaceful civil disobedience that could result in my arrest in order to send the message to President Obama and his administration that they must reject the Keystone XL pipeline.”

## RAN STATEMENT ON NONVIOLENCE



- Rainforest Action Network (RAN) does not support or condone violence in any form. We believe that peaceful protest and civil disobedience are powerful forces for change in a democratic society, and we defend the rights of individuals and organizations to practice them.
- RAN deplores any government-backed efforts that, under the guise of anti-terrorism, attempt to squelch public dissent and curtail civil liberties by criminalizing the constitutional right to peaceful protest. The government's use of taxpayer dollars to spy on environmental and social justice groups is fiscally and morally irresponsible, and sets a frightening precedent for all individuals wishing to effect social change.

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) trained Action Leaders to organize nonviolent direct actions, and to train others to participate. It was the Pledge's grounding in nonviolence that first attracted my attention, and made me believe this was an effort that would be consistent with Quaker faith and practice.

## NATION WIDE TRAINING

Summer 2013

25 cities – Action Lead training

400 Action Leaders trained

4,000 activists trained by Action Leaders



Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Todd Zimmer, RAN

The summer of 2013, RAN activists traveled to 25 U.S. cities to train Action Leaders, who would then organize, plan, train people, and execute the action in their local communities. Indianapolis was not one of those sites. Fortunately, Des Moines was one. Also fortunate was the timing—the weekend prior to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Annual Meeting, which I was planning to attend anyway. The other Indianapolis Action Leaders (next page) were trained in St. Louis or Cincinnati.

# Graduation



Congratulations on completing your training this past weekend!

**As an Action Lead, you are now a living, breathing, nonviolent threat to the Keystone XL Pipeline.**

We at Rainforest Action Network are very glad you have stepped up, and ready to support you in your role.

All of us at Rainforest Action Network are honored to be working with you on this historic effort.

You inspire us.

## NOKXL ACTION LEADERS



Jim Poyser,  
Executive Director,  
Earth Charter  
Indiana  
focuses on  
engaging youth with  
our environment,  
bicyclist



John Gibson,  
Founder of Earth  
Charter Indiana,  
ran for mayor of  
Indianapolis,  
Executive  
Committee,  
Indiana Moral  
Mondays



Ted Wolner,  
Professor of  
Architecture, Ball  
State University,  
arrested in  
Washington DC  
protesting  
Keystone,  
bicyclist



Wayne Moss,  
Organizing for  
America, contact  
with Senator  
Donnelly, Indiana  
Moral Mondays



Jeff Kisling,  
Quaker,  
activist,  
photographer,  
medical  
researcher,  
bicyclist,  
Indiana Moral  
Mondays

These five returned to Indianapolis as trained Action Leaders. Although Jim and John had worked on Earth Charter Indiana together, I don't think the rest of us knew each other at the time. We first met via email, then at the local training sessions we held for those from the Indianapolis area who signed the Pledge. What has been fascinating to me, as you'll see in the following, is how this group has formed an activist leadership core that has extended far beyond the Keystone Pledge of Resistance.

## ONGOING TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATIONS



Over the past two years we have held six training sessions for the Keystone Pledge of Resistance, one training session in nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action for Indiana Moral Mondays, with more planned, and organized quite a few demonstrations in downtown Indianapolis to highlight Keystone. We have also been very involved in forming Indiana Moral Mondays, as well as the other things described in the following.

# PUBLICITY

## Joe Donnelly's Keystone pipeline vote disregards dirty results

IndyStar 4:47 a.m. EDT May 7, 2014



(Photo: Rob Goshen/The Star)

Jeff Kasing  
Indianapolis

I am disappointed that Sen. Joe Donnelly has joined Senate Republicans to try to force a vote on the Keystone XL pipeline. This is an executive branch decision and not that of Congress. The senator's press release says he supports Keystone because of the jobs, when even TransCanada admits the pipeline will produce fewer than 100 permanent jobs. He also repeats the "all-in" approach to the future of energy, disregarding the tons of pollution and resulting health damage that will occur from continuing to burn fossil fuels.

## INDYSTAR

RAN Cool Team (@RANCool) · May 15  
RAN activist @RAN calls out @senDonnelly on willfully ignoring the dangers of #KXL. [a.ran.org/15](#) #NoKXL

RAN (@RAN) · May 15  
RAN activist @RAN calls out @senDonnelly on willfully ignoring the dangers of #KXL. [a.ran.org/15](#) #NoKXL

Raising awareness about the dangers of Keystone, extreme extraction methods and the resulting environmental damage is an important part of the Pledge of Resistance campaign. This letter to the editor of the Indianapolis Star was published when the U.S. Senate attempted to bypass the approval process. Here you can also see how RAN supports us by spreading the word, in this case via Twitter.

# PUBLICITY

## U.S. needs to address climate change

July 31st 3:39p on EDT September 25, 2014



(Photo: Kelly Hildebrand/The Star)

I believe that climate change is a moral issue. I believe that we have a responsibility to care for the Earth, marginalized peoples and future generations.

On Sept. 20 hundreds of people marched to the Capitol building as part of the launch of the Indiana Moral Mondays movement, which is a grassroots movement urging addressing social justice issues in the state legislature, one of the most important of which is environmental justice.

On Sept. 21, hundreds of thousands of people marched in the People's Climate March in New York City to show our friends, family and elected officials that now is our moment to take swift and strong action to address climate disruption.

This week world leaders gathered for a United Nations meeting to address the global environmental crisis.

I call on Rep. Andre Carson and Sens. Joe Donnelly and Dan Coats to be among the leaders in creating and passing legislation to address the impacts of climate change.

Jeff Kising

Indianapolis

INDYSTAR  
A GANNETT COMPANY

## Keystone XL pipeline threatens environment

4:23pm EDT February 16, 2015



(Photo: Jiff Red)

The Keystone XL pipeline is a threat to our national security. The carcinogen benzene is usually used to dilute the tar sands enough that it can flow. The completed southern leg of the pipeline was supposed to leak only once in seven years, but leaked 12 times the first year. There won't be enough bottled water to save us if the Ogallala Aquifer, which this pipeline would sit on top of, is contaminated. Not only do the pipelines leak, but past spills are still not cleaned up, years later.

Jeff Kising, Indianapolis

The climate change letter was written when Indiana Moral Mondays (IMM) was launched, to highlight that and the environmental work that will be done by IMM. The letter about threatening the environment was written at a time when there were an increased number of pipeline spills, and other chemical incidents that contaminated water supplies.

# PUBLICITY

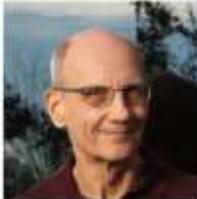


**American Friends Service Committee**

From <http://www.afsc.org/press/quarterly-meeting-resistance-keystone>

## Quaker pledges resistance to Keystone

Published: December 8, 2014



Jeff Krieger is an Indianapolis Friend who co-chairs the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the two-week yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative). Jeff is an avid photographer whose work can be found [here](#).

Photo: AFSC

I plan to be arrested at the Federal Building in an act of peaceful, nonviolent civil disobedience to protest against the Keystone pipeline in the event that recommendations from the State Department for approval, or passage of legislation to approve the pipeline are sent to the President. I've been trained, and in turn have helped train over 4,000 people across the United States to prepare for these actions as part of the Keystone Pledge of Resistance.

Thanks, Jon Krieg

Jon Krieg of the Des Moines office of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) also helped by getting this story published in the AFSC newsletter/website.

## FCNL - LOBBY CONGRESS



Traveling to Washington, DC, for meetings at William Penn House, and the annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), provided another opportunity to discuss Keystone. The fall of 2013 I visited with Nathan Bennett, my Congressman's (Andre Carson), Legislative Director. After discussing FCNL related issues, he asked if there was anything else. Since FCNL cannot support civil disobedience because of its work with Congress, I made it clear that what I was bringing up next was not supported by FCNL. I then described the Keystone Pledge of Resistance. It turned out that Nathan was extremely well informed about the whole issue, and we had a very interesting discussion. I must admit I had been a bit apprehensive about talking about breaking Federal laws while in a Congressional office building.

## NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



North Meadow Circle of Friends, an unprogrammed meeting just blocks from my apartment, has been a great source of support for not only the Pledge, but also IMM and many other endeavors. The bottom left shows our weekly peace vigil in downtown Indianapolis (where I hold a Stop Keystone Pipeline sign). The upper right shows Kathleen McQuillan, AFSC, Des Moines, visiting us as part of an AFSC regional meeting. And the bottom right shows Erin and Jack Polley. Erin is the Indianapolis AFSC person, and the primary person behind IMM.

# KHEPRW INSTITUTE (KI)



# KHEPRW INSTITUTE (KI)

First meeting – There is that of God in YOU



## INDY 10

- 10 young people met via social media immediately after Michael Brown was killed
- Went to Ferguson with food, water, support
- Return to Indy - very active engagement
- Community/police relations survey
- Keystone Pledge of Resistance provided nonviolence training
- **Conflict**
- Continuation







# CHILDREN OUR BEST INVESTMENT



# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FAIR



# BUTTERFLIES



# INDIANA MORAL MONDAYS

- Moral Mondays movement
  - Began in North Carolina
  - Rev. William Barber, President state NAACP
  - Organized acts of civil disobedience in the Statehouse
  - Over 100,000 arrests
- Indiana
  - Republican control both legislative chambers and Governor
  - Socially conservative, repressive (RFRA, etc)
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
  - Backbone of IMM
  - Erin Polley, Indianapolis



**MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER INDIANA MORAL MONDAYS**

1. **EQUAL JUSTICE:** *Equal Protection Under the Law --- Justice Without Regard to Race, Religious Beliefs, Class, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Immigration Status or Physical Disability.*
2. **ECONOMIC JUSTICE:** *Policies that support our labor force, including a living wage, access to healthcare, the right of all workers to organize and bargain collectively for pay, benefits and workplace rights.*
3. **EDUCATION EQUALITY:** *Provide a well-funded quality public education for all.*
4. **HEALTHCARE FOR ALL:** *Safeguard the health and quality of life for all Indiana residents.*
5. **VOTING RIGHTS:** *Protect and expand voting rights and ensure equal access for all voters to improve voter participation.*
6. **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY:** *Policies that provide clean water, air and food and ensure green spaces, and promote sustainability for all communities.*

**Partner organizations that have signed on to Indiana Moral Mondays are:**

ACLU of Indiana (Greater Lafayette Chapter)  
AFSCME 962  
AFSCME Local 2501  
AFSCME Local 2295 (Marion Co. Library Workers)  
AFSCME Local 3750  
AFT Indiana  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Income Life OFIU 277  
ATU Local 1070  
Central Indiana Chapter of OBTU/Coalition Of Black Trade Union  
Central Indiana Jobs With Justice  
Central Indiana Labor Council  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism  
Common Cause IN  
Community Forum for Economic Development  
Community, Faith & Labor Coalition  
Concerned Clergy  
Earth Charter Indiana  
Families Anchored in Harmony CDC Gary  
First Unitarian Universalist Congregation Terre Haute  
Fight For \$15 Indianapolis  
Hooders for Common Sense Health Plan  
ICRCC-IPK/OSH Council of Carpenters  
Inari United, Inc.  
Indiana NOW  
Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice  
Indiana State Association of Letter Carriers  
Indiana State Conference NAACP  
Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance  
IndianaChange  
Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center  
Inly Feminists

**Keystone Pledge of Resistance**

Lafayette Area Peace Coalition  
League of Women Voters of Indiana  
Let's MOVE Indiana  
Martin Luther King Jr. Senior Men's Club  
Midnight Local 1076  
More To Remind  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
Branch 39  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council on Educating Black  
Children  
National Education Association: South  
Bend  
North Central IN ARL-OD  
Northwest Central Labor Council  
Organizing for Action  
PLAG Indianapolis  
Progressive Community Church  
Rebuild the Dream-Lafayette  
SEIU Healthcare I/P/N/MO/KS  
SEIU Local 1  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Southwest Indiana Greens (SWIG)  
St. Joe Valley Project: Jobs With Justice  
Transform Action Power (TAP)  
The Carmel Start  
Trinity UCC-Gary  
Tri-State Jobs With Justice  
UAW Indiana State  
UAW Local 23 Retirees  
UAW Local 533  
UAW Local 533 Retirees  
Unitarian Universalist Church of West  
Lafayette  
Warehouse Workers for Justice  
Yes We Can-Tipppecanoe

## BUILDING INDIANA MORAL MONDAYS

- Erin Polley and AFSC are the foundation of IMM
- Keystone Pledge of Resistance action leaders involved
- KI supports IMM, and helped with the launch in October, 2014
- Four members of North Meadow Friends very involved
- Coalition of labor and other unions, educators, healthcare, environmental, NAACP, faith, peace and social justice organizations

Wayne Moss



# MORAL MONDAYS ACTIONS



Raise the Wage



Congressman Carson and PRIDE march



Religious Freedom  
Restoration Act



My roles:

Photographer  
Media committee  
Write blog articles  
Environmental justice committee  
Faith leader  
what does that mean?  
Nonviolent civil disobedience  
training

## INDIANA MORAL MONDAYS

indianamoralmondays.org/2013/03/20/solar\_issue



### INDIANA MORAL MONDAYS

HOME ABOUT VOLUNTEER DONATE EVENTS BLOG RESOURCE

Home / Blog

## Solar Power is a Moral Issue



written by FRANK ROSENTHAL, 2hr  
March 20, 2013

In keeping with its values of social and economic justice and the use of resources for the common good, Indiana Moral Mondays stands for the promotion of renewable sources of energy.

Our current use of energy is unsustainable. It is causing air pollution resulting in tens of thousands of premature deaths and health disorders, such as asthma, birth defects, etc. It results in high releases of CO2 and other greenhouse gases, that is increasing global warming. The cost of energy for homes and transportation is a major burden on low-income people, with the proportion of income spent on it being greater at lower

Community faith leaders talk about the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and discrimination in Indiana shortly after the RFRA debacle.

Erin Polley, AFSC, invited anyone from North Meadow Friends to speak. Friends don't usually think in terms of faith leaders, but I felt it was important for a Quaker to be heard, so there I am on the far left.



# CHANGE THE COURSE

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

RAN nation-wide coarse to train leaders to facilitate how to formulate a vision of the future, and how to plan and work to achieve that.

Todd (RAN) trained me here, too.



# GLASS WEB PROJECTS

## CREATING WEBSITES THAT BUILD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



How does Keystone Pledge of Resistance, which is a small group of concerned citizens, confront huge corporate influence? They plan to protect the environment no matter the cost.

Logo



Derek Glass

*Business Operations / Lead Developer*



Andrew Burger

*Video and Animation Intern*

Derek Glass and Andrew Burger creating an animation video of the Keystone Pledge of Resistance story.

# TIME BANK

Keystone Pledge of Resistance



Email (primary)  
(765) 631-8197  
Indianapolis, IN  
Nearby

Central Indiana  
Community TimeBank



Give & Receive -



Offers



Requests

## Offer: Nonviolence and civil disobedience direct action training

Local members of the Keystone Pledge of Resistance have been trained by activists from the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) to train others to plan and execute nonviolent civil disobedience direct actions. The training is typically approximately 4 hours in length and includes presentations, descriptions of resources needed, and role playing exercises.

ROBERT KENNEDY ANNOUNCES DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING



# KENNEDY KING MEMORIAL INITIATIVE



## KENNEDY KING MEMORIAL INITIATIVE

Reading for Pleasure and Community

HOME ABOUT US DONATIONS FUND RAISING CONTACT US NEWS REWARDS

### Jeff Kisting Captures New Angles of the Kennedy King Monument

In light of the anniversary of this speech in April 1968, Jeff Kisting went to the park to take photos of the memorial and captured this take on the words of Martin Luther King Jr.

The late Martin Luther King was assassinated April 4, 1968. Dr. King's legacy was living his philosophy in a way that was a challenge to his neighborhood. The author says that the 100th anniversary is a time to reflect on the words of King and how they have shaped the world we live in today. There is a link to the original photo, and a link to the original photo. The author says that the 100th anniversary is a time to reflect on the words of King and how they have shaped the world we live in today. There is a link to the original photo, and a link to the original photo.

© 2018 American South of the Atlantic

### JOIN US

Small Address

Use small address

Small



# KENNEDY KING MEMORIAL INITIATIVE

## Congressman Andre Carson Remembers RFK-VIDEO

We want to thank everyone for joining us June 6th for a wonderful memorial event! Thanks to the generous efforts of Jeff Kelling we now have a photo tour of the gathering along with Congressman Carson's poignant speech. Thank you, Jeff, for taking excellent photos and preserving the event for all to enjoy!



## UNCHARTERED TERRITORY

- Weather will become increasingly violent, and water distribution continue to change
- Water reserves are being rapidly depleted
- Food production will be negatively impacted by increased temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, changing insect populations
- Collapse of the fossil fuel industry will have severe economic consequences
- Our economic model of constantly increasing production is falling now
- Social unrest will increase in response to the above, and the immoral concentration of wealth by the few
- Increasing clashes with law enforcement and military are likely as desperate attempts are made to maintain the status quo, and conflicts over diminishing water, food, and other resources emerge

## UNCHARTERED TERRITORY

Time once again for Friends to provide spiritual and social action leadership

We know where to look for answers in these uncharted waters

We need to show others, and learn from others

To do so, we have to engage with others, even those we have some differences with

We **HAVE** to get out of the meetinghouse

We need to provide hope in dark times ahead

We need to practice and teach nonviolence  
as a way of life and of action



## LESSONS LEARNED

People are yearning to know how to work for justice

Social consciousness/awareness is rising

People are coming together in many places,

to address various issues

An activist community is emerging

Embrace your passion.

Art in particular can be useful in surprising ways

Art is often the most effective way to communicate moral issues

Photography has opened many doors for me

Will you come take photos of ...

Money is losing its importance

"The Zero Marginal Cost Society" Jeremy Rifkin

All of RAN's training sessions were free of charge

Glass Web Projects is creating the Keystone video free of charge, for example, and the Rainforest Action Network is going to help distribute it

Time Bank



# SMALL GROUP SOCIAL CHANGE MINISTRY



American Friends  
Service Committee

Search this site:

Search

[Advanced search](#)

About AFSC

Key issues

Where we work

You can help

Our history, current profile, and the Quaker values that inform our work

Resources and tool-page material to help you with AFSC's work

Locations of AFSC's projects, offices, and staff in the U.S. and internationally

People, volunteers, and how other users help advance peace and social justice

## Quaker Social Change Ministry



### Welcome Friend!

This page contains detailed information about Quaker Social Change Ministry, a pilot program of AFSC Friends Relations. The document, "A Proposal for Small Group Social Change Ministries in UU Congregations," is the featured resource on this page and is a very thorough description of the original model as practiced by Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Denver area. Click the link at the bottom of this page.

Copyright: AFSC

For more information about the powerful work of UU ministers in Denver who created the Small Group Social Change Ministry Model, please visit the [Be the Love](#) website.

<http://afsc.org/document/small-group-social-justice-ministry-model>

# YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED

Noah Baker Merrill concludes his article:

I want to leave you with a message that needs repeating. It was given to me, and now I'm giving it to you.

At the once-in-a-generation World Conference of Friends in Kenya last spring, as the gathering drew to a close, a young woman rose in the power of the Spirit in meeting for worship. To all of us in the Quaker movement, she offered a message she'd carried for a long time.

The words were simple. This is what she said: **"You have everything you need."**



# HAVE FAITH IN YOUR FAITH

"Where the will to will the will of God is present, there is a child of God."

Thomas Kelly

Our journey of faith is to become increasingly successful in making our will to be what God's will is.

Jeff Kislring

