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.
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.
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.

| Keystone (Pipeline) Pledge of Resistance | FCNL | General Committee Congressmen Carson's office and NOKXLI |
| Writing – Blog. Letters to the Editor | AFSC | Small Group Social Change Ministry Indiana Moral Mondays |
| Activist photography | Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Earthcare, Peace and Social Concerns Earth walk from Scattergood to Iowa City continuing to be car-less |
| North Meadow Circle of Friends | Change the Course – Training, Louisville |
| Kheprw Institute (KI) Youth – photography summer camp Community forums | Galaxy Web Projects – Keystone story animated video |
| Black Lives Matter / Indy 10 Youth | Quaker Story Project / Kenya |
| Homelessness / Children Our Best Investment Eco Fair / butterflies | Kennedy King Peace Memorial Initiative |
| Indiana Moral Mondays Launch / march Photographer | Weekly Keystone/Peace vigil |
| Environmental working group Living wage / RFRA / PRIDE march Nonviolence training | Time Bank – Nonviolent direct action training offer |
### Nandi

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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.
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.”
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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, 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)
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
HOMELESSNESS

I SPEAK FOR THE HOMELESS

I want to grow up and I want to get a job, but the way things are going now, my
will these jobs still be surviving...
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FAIR
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
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 1199
- AFSCME Local 2001
- AFSCME Local 2000 (Marion Co. Library Workers)
- AFSCME Local 1970
- AFT Indiana
- American Friends Service Committee
- American Home Life (AFSU) 277
- ATU Local 1075
- Central Indiana Chapter of CPUSA (Coalition of Black Trade Unions)
- Central Indiana Jobs with Justice
- Central Indiana Labor Council
- Church of IPA (Social Justice)
- Coalition of Labor Union Women
- Committee 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 United Methodist Church of Terre Haute
- Right For $15 Indianapolis
- Hoosiers for Common Sense Health Plan
- NorCC W/K/DON Coalition of Carpenters
- Jews United, Inc.
- Jews NOW
- Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice
- Indiana State Association of Letter Carriers
- Indiana State Conference NAACP
- Indiana United Methodist Youth Alliance
- IndianaWage
- Indianapolis Peace and Justice Center
- Judy Hemonds

Keystone Pledge of Resistance

- Lafayette Labor Fair Coalition
- League of Women Voters of Indiana
- LFT's NOW Michigan
- Martin Luther King Jr. Senior Men's Club
- Millwood Local 1010
- Move to Amend
- National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 39
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Council of Educating Black Children
- National Education Association of South Bend
- North Central IN AFL-CIO
- Northwest Central Labor Council
- Organizing for Action
- PLAN Indiana
- Progressive Community Church
- Rebuild the Dream Lafayette
- SEIU Healthcare Local 1
- SEIU Local 1
- Sisters of St. Francis
- Southwest Indiana Greens (SWIG)
- St. Joe Valley Area Jobs with Justice
- Transform Action Power (TAP)
- The Center for
- Trinity UCC-Gary
- United Irish Women's
- UAW Indiana State
- UAW Local 623
- UAW Local 103
- UAW Local 333
- Unitarian Universalist Church of West Lafayette
- Warehouse Workers for Justice
- Yes We Can-Tippecanoe
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

Solar Power is a Moral Issue

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 course 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.
Derek Glass and Andrew Burger creating an animation video of the Keystone Pledge of Resistance story.
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
We want to thank everyone for joining us June 6th for a wonderful memorial event! Thanks to the generous efforts of Jeff Kilgore 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 failing 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 unchartered 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 fee of charge, for example, and the Rainforest Action Network is going to help distribute it
   Time Bank
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.

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 Kisling