An Energy Vision from the Heart of Kentucky’s “Holy Land”

As an increasing number of pipelines carrying natural gas liquids are proposed to connect hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) operations in the northeast with chemical processing plants in the south, we, members of three religious communities in the “Kentucky Holy Land”—the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the Loretto Community, and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth—have joined countless other citizens in opposing the construction of such pipelines in our state.

We stand with all those who oppose the widespread risks to natural ecosystems and human well-being caused by the rush to achieve national “energy independence” through the creation of vast infrastructures for the extraction, refinement, and combustion of more fossil fuels. We urge instead the development of national policies and infrastructures that will facilitate a swift and steady transition to renewable energy sources.

Because of our love for God and for God’s creation, Earth and all its species, we here offer a set of beliefs, rejections, and commitments. We invite you to join us.

WE BELIEVE that Earth does not belong to us, but that we belong to Earth, our home planet that is alive with the creative energy of God. God’s desire that all creation may have fullness of life means that we are called to co-create by cooperating with all life systems. We believe that we are now also called to face the potential catastrophe of global climate change and, in solidarity with many others, to help solve this problem. We believe that cooperation and ingenuity can make renewable energy resources efficient and affordable within this decade.

WE REJECT the assumption that access to the resources needed by all Earth’s people can be limited to the ownership and profit-taking of a few. We reject corporation tactics that threaten, exploit, and coerce landowners and residents and that risk public health and safety. We reject an economic system that promotes wasteful consumption of energy and other natural resources. We reject the extraction of energy sources by plundering Earth, endangering and destroying forests, wildlife, flora, the health of all species and polluting land, air, and water. We reject the belief that climate change is not caused by human activity, and we equally reject the assumption that humanity is incapable of making the changes needed to reverse the trends leading to climate change.

WE COMMIT ourselves to care for God’s creation, upholding both the ideal of the common good now and the well-being of future generations. We will learn, teach, and model alternative ways of viewing energy sourcing and conservation that reduce risks to water, land, air, climate, and human safety. We commit ourselves to use our spiritual and social resources and our public credibility in all possible ways to promote the transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy resources. We commit ourselves to stand in solidarity with those land-owners and residents who resist the abuses of corporate power and greed. We will advocate for adequate government regulation of all energy sources. We will examine the options of divestment and shareholder actions for our investments in fossil fuel industries and for increasing our investments in renewable energy sources.
These faith communities and organizations are committed to the Energy Vision Statement:

**Dominican Sisters of Peace and Associates**  
Sr. Margaret Ormond, OP, Prioress

**Loretto Community – Sisters and Co-members**  
Pearl McGivney, SL, President

**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and Associates**  
Susan Gatz, SCN, President

**Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH**  
Sr. Jacquelyn Doepker, Community Minister

**Congregation of Divine Providence**  
Leadership Team

**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth**  
Antoinette Severin, Vice Provincial

**Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH**  
Patricia Gardner, OSF, Congregational Treasurer

**Ursulines of Brown County**  
Sr. Lucia Castellini, Congregational Minister

**Ursulines of Youngstown**  
Sr. Norma Raupple, Leadership Team

**Ursulines of Cincinnati**  
Margaret M. Efkaman, General Minister

**Intercommunitiy Justice and Peace Center, Cincinnati, OH**  
Sr. Alice Gerdeman, Coordinator

**Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH**  
Community Council

**Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY**  
Leadership Team

**Grail Movement Climate Action Circle**  
Marian Ronan, PhD, Coordinator

**International Thomas Merton Society**  
Dr. Paul M Pearson, Resident Secretary

**Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph**  
Sr. Sharon Sullivan, Congregational Leader

**Franciscan Action Network**  
Patrick Carolan, Executive Director

**CrossRoads Ministry, Louisville, KY**  
Dawn Dones, Director

**Unitarian Universalists Community of Frankfort, KY**  
Ruby L Layson, Board Member

**Congregation of Divine Providence**  
Sr. Frances E Moore, Provincial

**UN NGO of the Good Shepherd Sisters**  
Winifred Doherty, NGO Representative to the UN, Good Shepherd Sisters

**Drepung Gomang Institute**  
Geshe Kalsang Rapgyal, Director  
Anne Walter, President of the Board of Directors

**The Carmelite NGO**  
Sr. Helen Ojario, O. Carm., North American UN NGO Representative

**UNANIMA International**  
Michele Morak, Coalition Coordinator

**Loretto Earth Network**  
Nancy Wittwer, Coordinating Committee

**International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation**  
Fatima Rodrigo

**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office of the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province**  
John Converset, MCCJ, Director

**Plowshares Farm Center for Education and Spirituality**  
Bob Ernst, Executive Director

**Latin America/Caribbean Committee of the Loretto Community**  
Carolyn Jaramillo, Committee Member

**Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation**  
Mary Etta King, Executive Director

**Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic**  
Congregational Leadership Team
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Louisville Chapter  
Patricia Geier, Chairperson

Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida

Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. – US Province

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes  
Zenebe Abebe, Executive Director

New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future  
Sr. Claire McGowan OP, Executive Director

Loose Leaf Hollow Retreat Center  
Joe and Pam Zarantonello, Co-directors

Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery  
Justice and Peace Committee

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust  
Hugh Archer, Executive Director

Mennonite Creation Care Network  
Luke Gascho, Director

Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean  
David Horvath, Chairperson

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dubuque, Iowa  
Teri Hadro, BVM, President

Paoli Mennonite Church, Paoli, Indiana  
Pastor-Elder Team

Passionist Earth & Spirit Center  
Fr. Joseph Mitchell, CP, President

Sisters of St. Francis, Savannah, MO  
Sr. Christine Martin, OSF, Provincial Superior

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sr. Esther Anderson, OSF, Congregational Minister

U.S. A.S.C. Region Office for Justice and Peace  
Sara Dwyer, ASC, Coordinator

Memorial United Methodist Church, Elizabethtown, KY  
Audrey Myers, Co-Chair, Creation Care Team

Lebanon Baptist Church, Lebanon, KY  
David B. Whitlock, Pastor

Holy Cross International Justice Office  
Mary Turgi CSC, Director

Sisters of Charity Federation  
Caroljean Willie, SC, NGO Representative at the UN

Society of Helpers  
Sr. Laetitia Bordes, S.H., Justice and Peace Coordinator

Sinsinawa Dominicans  
Leadership Team

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Leadership Council

Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa  
Pat Farrell, OSF, Vice President

Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers)  
Betsy Neale, Presiding Co-clerk

Louisville Jewish Voice for Peace  
Russ Greenleaf, Member

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  
Leadership Team

Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Leadership Team

Sisters of the Presentation  
Sr. Stephanie Still, PBVM, President

Bridgeport Christian Church, Frankfort, KY  
Keith P McAshley, Pastor

Green Chalice Ministry, Christian Church of KY (Disciples of Christ)  
Annette Hayden, Coordinator

Whole Health Outreach  
Sr. Rita Schonhoff, Director
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office of the School Sisters of Notre Dame-Atlantic-Midwest Province
Arlene Flaherty OP, Director

St. William Peace and Justice Committee, Louisville, KY
Theresa Butler, Chair

Dominican Sisters
Eileen Gannon, OP, Executive Team Member

The Renewal Project
Marty Ostrow, Producer

Crystal Spring Earth Learning Center, Plainville, MA

Sowers of Justice Network
Doug Lowry, Board Member

Cultivating Connections, Louisville, KY
Mark Steiner, Director

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Owensboro
Tom Hicks, President
Rev. Dr. Claudia A. Ramisch, Minister

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
S. Maureen Hall, Community Director

Nazareth Village II, Nazareth, KY
Alida Coughlin, Resident

Franciscan Friars (OFM), St. John the Baptist Province, JPIC Office

Center for Interfaith Relations, Louisville, KY

Threshold Society, Louisville, KY
Camille and Kabir Helminski, Co-Directors

Leadership Team of Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, In
Sr. Maureen Irvin, OSF, Congregational Minister

ROW (Religious on WATER)
Joan Carey, ssj, Secretary

WATERSPIRIT
Suzanne Golas, csjp, Director

Simple Gifts Spiritual Community, Frankfort, KY
Joyce Hudson, Clerk

Marianites of Holy Cross Leadership Team
Sr. Ann Lacour, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sr. Patricia McDermott, RSM, president

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Suzanne Golas, csjp

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Yardley, PA
Diane Bardol, GNSH, Social Justice Coordinator

Sisters of St. Joseph Earth Center
Sister Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ, Director

Sierra Club, Cumberland KY Chapter
Betsy Bennett, Conservation Chair

Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, Seattle, WA
Judy Byron, OP, Director

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, Seattle, WA
Linda Haydock, SNJM, Director

Genesis Farm
Sr. Miriam Therese MacGillis, OP, Director

Heartland Farm
Marilyn Pierson, OP, Contact Person

Fons Vitae, Louisville, KY
Gray Henry and Lucy Jones, Directors

Midway Green Chalice, Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Adele Dickerson, Chair

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Leadership Team

Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light
Mark Steiner, Outreach Director

Peace and Justice Division of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams
James Lees Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky
Rev. Phil Lloyd-Sidle, Pastor

Louisville Peace Action Community
Judy Munro-Leighton, Co-Chair

Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East
Polly Johnson, Chairperson

The Hermitage Community of Three Rivers, Michigan
Naomi and David Wenger, Co-Directors

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, New Jersey
Leadership Team

[Updated 12/6/2013]

As of this printing, 100 organizations have signed the Energy Vision Statement, and more sign each day. To see the most updated list of sign-ons, visit www.orettocommunity.org/energy.