

A REPORT ABOUT OUR YEARLY MEETING'S FCNL NETWORK **July 30, 2015**

From your appointees to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL):

Lance Billingsley, Camden MM

Joan Broadfield, Chester MM

Burt Dallas, Radnor MM

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Margaret Mansfield, Mt Holly MM

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OUR PURPOSE: We maintain and coordinate an FCNL Network of monthly meeting contacts. We promote our monthly meetings' participation in FCNL's Legislative Priorities process, and encourage Friends to participate in FCNL's efforts to bring Friends' testimonies to bear on our nation's legislation and policies. We extend heartfelt thanks to our monthly meeting contacts, and are truly grateful for all the Friends, known and unknown to us, who support FCNL's remarkable Quaker presence in Washington, DC.

We are renewed and inspired by the work of FCNL and devote significant time to it. We value FCNL's commitment to be non-partisan, its grounding in Friends Testimonies, and its practice of Quaker governance. This gives us strength to persevere in the face of an increasingly polarized Congress.

We remain determined not to give up on the democratic standards we say we value as a nation. And even more fundamentally to not give up on the idea of government itself. We hold this determination with humility and a clear understanding of our limits, but also with the conviction that our small efforts do make some difference, that we are all in this together and that Spirit opens the way to Truth.

A SUMMARY OF OUR PAST YEAR'S EFFORTS:

FCNL's three main priorities this past year: Also the focus of our efforts, offer stark examples of a dysfunctional Congress: **supporting diplomacy with Iran, a Call to Conscience for Climate Change, and beginning to address mass incarceration through the Smart Sentencing Act.** (www.fcnl.org)

Young Adults: We are very excited about the specific ways that FCNL is **welcoming and actively recruiting for Young Adult leadership**, through Young Fellows, Advocacy Corps, Summer Interns, and the Scoville Peace Fellowship. Our continuing effort to encourage participation by Young Adult Friends in FCNL is bearing much fruit. We sponsored eight Young Adult Friends to attend FCNL's Fall Lobby Day and Annual Meeting in November, and five to attend Spring Lobby Weekend in March.

In addition, Maggie O'Donnell, Lehigh Valley MM, has been serving on the FCNL staff through the Young Fellows Program Assistant for Militarism and Civil Liberties. And Joey Hartmann-Dow, YAF Fellowship, has been a vital colleague in this ministry, serving as a Yearly Meeting Representative, participating in FCNL's Visiting Friends, and lobbying. Joey was recently selected by FCNL for its "Advocacy Corps," where she will

build grassroots organizing skills and put them into practice for Climate Justice in Philadelphia.

Skill Building: At our 2014 Annual Sessions, we offered a workshop on the spiritual and practical dimensions of effective communication with policy-makers. We hosted a workshop on mass incarceration led by Tila Naguse of FCNL staff, a conversation tent, and luncheon gatherings with visiting FCNL staff. We also exhibited FCNL materials, with a special emphasis on climate justice and mass incarceration. We helped promote, and two of us participated, in a PA Interfaith Light and Power skill-building training in February at which FCNL's Jose Aguto was a featured speaker.

Lobbying: In November, we were fully present at FCNL's Annual Meeting, and were joined by 18 other Friends from our Yearly Meeting for Congressional visits on diplomacy with Iran. This included breakfast with PA Senator Casey, delegations to NJ senators with members of New York Yearly Meeting, and nine visits to Representatives' offices. At least one of these visits made a truly important difference. Soon after the meeting with DE Representative Carney, he changed his position and announced his support for negotiations with Iran.

Follow-up on lobby visits is also essential: In February, we reinforced FCNL's call for diplomacy with Iran with an email campaign and an in-district lobby visit to Representative Dent (PA). As a follow up to FCNL's Spring Climate Justice Lobby Weekend, we organized four visits with Congressional staff in DC and worked with Interfaith Power and Light PA, Penn Future and our own Eco-Justice Working Group to widen our grassroots lobbying with local Letters to the Editor and emails from constituents. All monthly meetings were asked to participate in this effort on May 9 at Interim Meeting; to date, we know that members of 22 monthly meetings have responded to our request.

Visits to Monthly Meetings: We value opportunities to visit monthly meetings, whether to discuss specific issues and listen to Friends' concerns, to describe FCNL's "tool box" of lobbying skills, and/or to help articulate the bridge between contemplative spirituality and political witness. Since last year's Sessions, there have been visits to over a dozen monthly and quarterly meetings.

NOW IS THE TIME: Virtually all independent climate policy experts understand that **the Global Climate Conference in Paris this coming December is probably the last chance to reach a global agreement for preventing a 2° Celsius rise in average global temperature, and thus avoid a virtually certain global climate catastrophe before the end of this century.** This reality led UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to convene an extraordinary meeting last September in order to plead with heads of state to do what is needed to reach a global agreement in Paris.

Two crucial issues will be on the table at the Climate Conference in Paris: 1) mandatory commitments for nations to reduce their carbon emissions and 2) financial contributions from the industrialized nations to a global Green Climate Fund to help developing nations "to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions... and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change."

FCNL has asked our Yearly Meeting, as a member organization, to join other faith communities in speaking out boldly about our moral and religious imperative to address

climate change. Specifically, they have asked us to endorse a letter to members of Congress (which is attached) asking for Congressional approval for our nation's initial contribution to the Green Climate Fund. Without Congressional approval, the Administration will be unable to commit to the \$3 billion it has pledged to contribute by 2020. Friends can find more information about the Green Climate Fund at <http://news.gcfund.org>.

WE ASK FOR TWO ACTIONS AT OUR 2015 ANNUAL SESSIONS:

- 1) to consider endorsing FCNL's letter to members of Congress in support of the President's request for \$500 million for the global Green Climate Fund;**
- 2) requesting the Clerk, General Secretary and Councils to actively speak on behalf of the Yearly Meeting in support of efforts to abate climate change, as ways open and as appropriate to their positions of service.**

Responding to climate justice is a peace issue, a human rights issue, a racial justice issue, an economic issue, and an issue of moral and spiritual integrity. This has been recognized by the leadership of virtually all of the world's major religious denominations, notably by Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew in 2008, and powerfully underscored by the recent Encyclical from Pope Francis.

Our Yearly Meeting has repeatedly affirmed the moral imperative to address climate change, in minutes of 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2009, and by past minutes of concern from more than 40 monthly meetings. Climate Justice has been an FCNL Network priority since the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee asked the Network to carry forward the climate minute from the 2009 Annual Session. With the recent Encyclical issued by Pope Francis and its strong focus on climate justice, and with his presentation to a Joint Session of Congress in September, followed by his visit to Philadelphia, it is important that our Yearly Meeting as a faith community be able to join with this significant interfaith outpouring of moral concern.

We are clear that our Yearly Meeting's leaders need the same kind of authority to speak for us on climate justice, as opportunities arise in the coming months, as was given to our General Secretary by Interim Meeting, when she was released to speak on behalf of our Yearly Meeting if needed regarding the events surrounding the tragic death of Michael Brown. We agree that the events in Ferguson and beyond deserve our timely attention. We believe the case for Climate Justice must be given that same weight. **Let us give voice to our convictions.**

Distributed for endorsements: May 1, 2015
To be distributed to Congress: Fall 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

As communities of faith we write to ask your support for the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the President's FY2016 budget request of \$500 million for the GCF. We come from different faith traditions, united across theological lines by our deep concern for humanity and all of God's Creation. We are guided by principles of stewardship, compassion and justice in confronting the moral crisis of our changing climate. The Green Climate Fund represents an important step in global cooperation needed to build a more resilient world and to move us along the path to low carbon energy development.

Called to till and keep God's Creation (Genesis 2:15) and commanded to care for our most vulnerable neighbors (Deuteronomy 15:11) we believe that climate change presents an unprecedented threat to all of Creation, but most particularly to those living in poverty around the globe. We already witness the impacts of climate change in rising sea levels that threaten small island states, long term drought and other weather extremes that impact the food security and political stability of Least Developed Nations, and melting glaciers that put at risk water supplies for major cities in the Global South. All of these impacts fall hardest on those with the least means to adapt—people and communities already struggling with poverty and hunger, who are also the least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions causing earth's climate to change.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) represents a new way forward in addressing these issues. The GCF is an independent entity that has already established strong fiduciary standards and safeguards. It is accountable to a board with representatives from the US government and other donor and recipient governments. It includes high levels of transparency and accountability in its structure and governing principles to prevent corruption. The core purpose of the GCF is building the capability of developing nations to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through low carbon development pathways and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

With fully half of its funds dedicated to adaptation needs and with priority given to African nations, small island states, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the GCF represents a major commitment by the global community to helping vulnerable nations build resilience to climate impacts. Such resilience will increase food security and political stability, with positive implications for related issues including migration and national security.

The GCF also builds on lessons learned from the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds and other international funds that have supported clean energy development and climate-compatible development. Central to the GCF's design is a private sector facility that will allow the use of innovative financial instruments to unleash the power of the private sector – including leading American companies – to help address climate change.

The over \$10 billion in funding pledges for the GCF to date have come from countries representing diverse regions and income levels. In addition to the U.S. pledge of \$3

billion, pledges have come from countries ranging from Germany and Japan to Korea and Mexico and from France and Switzerland to Colombia and Peru.

We fully support the President's request for \$500 million in funds for the GCF in FY2016. This investment in mitigation and adaptation is not only our moral obligation as a major contributor to climate change but also a sound investment in alleviating poverty and ensuring global food security now and in the future. As countries engage in the difficult task of negotiating a new global climate change agreement this year, Congressional appropriation of the funds to meet the US pledge to the GCF is vital to our leadership in these negotiations and to building trust between developed and developing countries. Such trust is essential to reaching an overall agreement that includes meaningful pledges from all parties to take the actions needed to keep global temperatures from rising to catastrophic levels.

People living in poverty around the world have contributed least to the phenomenon of climate change, yet are most impacted by it. Our nation of great wealth and influence has contributed much to it. Addressing the harmful impacts of climate change upon the most vulnerable peoples and the future of all God's creation is the moral responsibility of our nation, and also our sacred task as people of faith. We hope you will use your leadership role to support the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund.

ENDORSEMENTS TO JUNE 30, 2015

National Organizations/Denominations

American Friends Service Committee	Mennonite Central Committee, U.S. Washington Office
American Jewish World Service	National Coalition of American Nuns (NCAN)
Catholic Climate Covenant	NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Church World Service	Presbyterian Church (USA)
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach	Quaker Earthcare Witness
Creation Justice Ministries	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	The Union for Reform Judaism
The Episcopal Church	Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Franciscan Action Network	The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Friends Committee on National Legislation	Women of Reform Judaism
GreenFaith	World Evangelical Alliance
Interfaith Power & Light	
Islamic Relief USA	
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	

Regional/State Organizations

Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia	Leadership Team, Dominican Sisters of Peace
Alaska Friends Conference (Quaker)	Leadership Team, Felician Sisters, of North America
Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light	Leadership Team, Sinsinawa Dominicans
Arizona Interfaith Power & Light	Leadership Team, Sisters of Charity, BVM (Dubuque, IA)
Central Conference of American Rabbis	Leadership Team, Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light	Oregon Interfaith Power & Light
Faith Action Network (Washington)	Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light	Province of the Society of Helpers
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart	Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light
Hoosier (Indiana) Interfaith Power & Light	School Sisters of Notre Dame, Cooperative Investment Fund
Illinois Interfaith Power & Light	Sisters of Charity of New York
Interfaith Power & Light (DC, MD, NoVA)	Sisters of the Holy Cross-Leadership Team
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light	Sisters of IHM, Scranton, PA Leadership Team
Kansas Interfaith Power & Light	Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Leadership Team
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light	Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
Lutheran Advocacy – Illinois	Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania	Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania Ohio
Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin	Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry, New Jersey Synod, ELCA	Sunshine State Interfaith Power & Light
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California	Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	Texas Impact
Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern USA	Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light	Wheaton Franciscans
Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light	Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light
New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light	Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
New York Interfaith Power & Light	
Ohio Interfaith Power & Light	