

MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action, Legislative Day, Massachusetts Statehouse,  
November 10, 2015, remarks by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

### **I need you to be people of faith**

It is a joy to stand here with people of so many different religious and spiritual traditions, all of us united for a common purpose.

We're here because Massachusetts is poised at an energy crossroads, and we have a precious opportunity, a precious *responsibility*, to choose a more just and sustainable future.

The world's religions proclaim that the Earth is entrusted to our care and that we have a moral responsibility to build just, generous, and life-sustaining societies. I don't know what tradition, if any, you belong to – whether you call yourself “religious” or “spiritual” or “none of the above.” However you define your deepest meaning and values, I hope that you will come to think of yourself as a person of faith.

We need people of faith.

Here's why. Until now, humanity has seemed incapable of breaking away from the power of the fossil fuel industry or of imagining a life-sustaining future. It's as if we've fallen under a spell and made what U.N. Secretary General Ban-ki Moon calls a “global suicide pact.”

I'm here to say that in Massachusetts, we're not going to settle for a global suicide pact, or for a local one, either. At this energy crossroads, one path leads to “business as usual,” an economy mired in dirty fossil fuels that push the planet toward catastrophic climate disruption. The other path leads to clean, safe, renewable energy from sun and wind, to energy efficiency and energy conservation. One path leads to profit for the few, suffering for the many, and, before too long, death for all. The other path leads to a stable climate, clean air, soil, and water, good “green” jobs, and the ongoing evolution of life as we know it on this planet.

We know which path we choose. We choose life. We choose that path because, whatever our religious tradition, we are people of faith.

Who are people of faith?

People who see the long view, not just short-term quarterly reports;  
people who care about the homeless, hungry, and poor, not just about elites;  
people who understand that the web of life is a gift to be protected, not a commodity to be exploited and destroyed;  
people who place our hope not in the promise of success but in being faithful to the love that created us and that holds all things together.

Thank you for being people of faith. Thank you for your commitment to urging our Commonwealth to choose a good path, one that stabilizes the climate and that ensures that all our communities can enjoy a clean and just energy future.

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