Message from the Executive Director:

Because of your generous support, Faith in Place is building a legacy for our children and the common good that will outlast us all. In 2014, the growing staff team hosted more than 150 events across the state—educating, connecting, and advocating for our common home together. The few highlights in each of our four program areas contained in this letter only capture a small snapshot of Faith in Place’s programs that are transforming our communities for environmental justice.

We can’t do this work without you. Every day I’m honored to work for an organization with such a high level of integrity: a clean, annual third-party financial audit, energetic and diverse staff, more than 80% of our budget devoted to programming, and unbelievable growth potential for even greater positive environmental impact.

Please join me for one of our four Celebration and Fundraiser Events happening across the state in November and December to learn more about our most impactful year ever!

Sincerely,
Rev. Brian Sauder
FAITH IN PLACE INSPIRES PEOPLE OF FAITH TO WORK TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON AIR, WATERS, LANDS, AND ALL LIVING THINGS THROUGH OUR FOUR PROGRAM AREAS:

ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2014 we educated more than 6,500 individuals at over 100 faith communities across the state of Illinois on ways to reduce their carbon footprint. We are gathering data from all smart energy event participants, and refining our programming so we can meet the needs of our diverse audiences even better in 2015 and beyond.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD & LAND USE

Our Community Supported Agriculture Programs are thriving, and this year Habitat Restoration efforts are booming, too. Outings in Kickapoo Woods, part of the Migration & Me program, decreased the buckthorn thicket coverage from over 70% to only 16%, while at the same time tripling the number of healthy, native species in that area!

WATER PRESERVATION

We partnered with the Chicago Catholic Archdiocese to develop a water audit program for more than 2,600 buildings and educated dozens of houses of worship on how to mitigate the harmful impact of storm water runoff on water quality with rain barrels and rain gardens. Our Board of Directors’ Programming Committee is working hard to reformat our interfaith water curriculum: Our Grandchildren’s Water, which we are excited to re-release in 2016.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

2014 REVENUE: $1,036,148

2014 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES: $563,339

ADVOCACY

Once again, in 2014, Faith in Place mobilized the largest contingent of any environmental group for Environmental Advocacy Day in April. Later in the year, multiple newspapers and TV channels featured our staff and volunteers delivering 1,000 plus petitions from people of faith to the Governor’s Office, advocating for energy efficiency and renewable energy to be prioritized in Illinois’ Clean Power Plan.

*Total 2014 revenue includes $424,549 of funding designated by foundations for fiscal 2015 programs.