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John B. Cobb, Jr., is Professor Emeritus at the Claremont School of Theology and an active participant at the Center for Process Studies. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Since his retirement, he co-organized, with George Regas, a group entitled, Progressive Christians Uniting, that seeks to provide a progressive Christian voice throughout southern California. He also recently helped to organize the International Process Network. He organized two major conferences on “The Theology of Survival” (1969) and “Alternatives to Catastrophe” (1969), and, with David Griffin, he organized the Center for Process Studies, a center that promotes the thought of Alfred North Whitehead, a viewpoint that

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Niles Eldredge has been on the curatorial staff of the American Museum of Natural History and is Curator-in-Chief of the 11,000 sq. foot permanent exhibition “Hall of Biodiversity” which opened in May 1998 at the American Museum of Natural History. A paleontologist by trade, Eldredge has devoted his career to the analysis of evolutionary patterns preserved in the fossil record and their implications for understanding the evolutionary process. He has confronted the contemporary mass species extinction issue in several books including: Life in the Balance: Humanity and the Biodiversity Crisis (Princeton University Press, 1998).
Richard Foltz holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and is Associate Professor of Religion at Concordia University, Montréal. An historian of comparative religious traditions with a special focus on the Muslim world, his books *L’Iran creuset de religions* (Les Presses de l’Université Laval, 2007) and *Religions of the Silk Road: Overland Trade and Cultural Exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century* (St. Martin’s Press, 1999) propose historical models for considering the emergence, development and transmission of the world’s major religious traditions. In the area of Religion and Ecology, he has edited a widely-used course text titled *Worldviews, Religion and the Environment: A Global Anthology* (Wadsworth Thomson, 2002) and two seminal volumes exploring environmental values among Muslims, *Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust* (Harvard, 2003) and *Environmentalism in the Muslim World* (Nova Science, 2005). His book *Animals in Islamic Tradition and Muslim Cultures* (Oneworld, 2006) is the first scholarly survey of how Muslims have viewed the importance of non-human animals. Dr. Foltz’s most recent journal articles are “The Religion of the Market: Reflections on a Decade of Discussion,” in *Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion* 11/2 (2007), “Is Zoroastrianism an Ecological Religion?” in the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* 1/4 (2007), and “Muslim ‘Orientalism’ in Medieval Travelogues of India,” in *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 37/1 (2008). In all Dr. Foltz has authored or edited eight books and some seventy journal articles and other scholarly publications. His work has appeared in French, Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Japanese, Indonesian, Urdu, German, Bosnian, Spanish, and Russian.

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**Fazlun Khalid** has established for himself a world wide reputation as an indefatigable advocate of environmental protection rooted in Islam and is now recognised as one of fifteen leading eco theologians in the world alongside the Dalai Lama and the Pope.

He also has a deep commitment to work with other faiths and as an example of this he chaired a major gathering in Japan in 1995 and produced the Ohito Declaration for Religion, Land and
Conservation which pledged all the major faiths to work together in addressing environmental problems. Subsequently as Director of Training for the Alliance of Religions and Conservation he tirelessly promoted this declaration world-wide from 1995 to 2000.

Since the mid 1980s he has devoted his energies to promoting Islamic environmentalism in both its theological and practical manifestations. His writing output has been described by an influential academic as being “among the most important, insightful, relevant and reliable” in this area of concern. His work in the field is of even greater significance where through the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences which he founded and now directs, he attempts to establish pioneering projects based on Islamic principles.

His work displays a sustained effort at spreading the environmental message across the Muslim world and also a deep commitment to the cause of environmental justice for the poor in developing countries.

Kenneth Kraft, Professor of Religious Studies at Lehigh University, is a scholar of Japanese Zen and socially engaged Buddhism. He received his B.A. from Harvard University, his M.A. from the University of Michigan, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. At Lehigh he has served as chair of the Religious Studies department and director of the College Seminar Program. In 2005, he received a Lindback Foundation Award for distinguished teaching by a senior member of the faculty. Kraft has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, and the Stanford University Japan Center in Kyoto.

Kraft’s book Eloquent Zen: Daito and Early Japanese Zen was selected as an “Outstanding Academic Book” by Choice magazine. His anthology of present-day Zen masters and scholars, Zen: Tradition and Transition, is widely used in college courses. The Wheel of Engaged Buddhism: A New Map of the Path explores spiritually based responses to social and environmental issues. Dharma Rain: Sources of Buddhist Environmentalism, coedited with Stephanie Kaza, brings together ancient and contemporary Buddhist teachings about human/nature relations.

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Jay McDaniel is the Director of the Steel Center for the Study of Religion and a philosophy professor at Hendrix College. He also serves on the board of directors of the Center for Respect of Life and Environment and (CRLE) is active in the Earth Charter initiative. His published works include: Of God and Pelicans (Westminster/John Knox, 1989), Earth, Sky, Gods, and Mortals (Twenty-Third Publications, 1990), With Roots and Wings (Orbis, 1995), and Living from the Center: Spirituality in the Age of Consumerism (Chalice Press, 2000). Influenced by process theology, he has attempted to develop a process theology of ecology in dialogue with other world religions, particularly Buddhism. His interests also include concerns for animal welfare within the larger horizons of ecological thinking.

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William Moomaw is Professor of International Environmental Policy, Director of the International Environment and Resource Policy Program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and Co-Director of the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University. Moomaw received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He has served as Professor of Chemistry and
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Seyyed Hossein Nasr was born in 1933 in Tehran, Iran in a family of educators and scholars, his father having been one of the founders of the Persian educational system. Consequently, he received the best classical Persian and Islamic education during his early years in Tehran. He later came to the West to finish his secondary education at the Peddie School in New Jersey and after graduating as the valedictorian of his class, he went to MIT where he studied physics and mathematics and graduated with honors in 1954. Meanwhile, his interest turned to an ever greater degree to philosophy and the history of science and he transferred to Harvard University to pursue graduate studies first in the field of geology and geophysics in order to acquaint himself with a descriptive as well as a mathematical science, and finally in the field of the history of science and philosophy in which he received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1958 with specialization in Islamic cosmology and science. From 1958 until 1979, he was professor of the history of science and philosophy at Tehran University and for several years the dean of the Faculty of Letters and for sometime the vice chancellor of the University. He also served for several years as president of Aryamehr University in Iran. In 1962 and 1965 he was visiting professor at Harvard University and in 1964-65 the first Aga Khan professor of Islamic studies at the American University of Beirut. He was also the founder and first president of the Iranian Academy of Philosophy and is president of the Foundation for Traditional studies.
In 1979 Dr. Nasr migrated to the United States where he became first the distinguished professor of Islamic studies at the University of Utah, then from 1979 to 1984 professor of Islamic studies at Temple University. Since 1984 he has been University Professor of Islamic studies at the George Washington University.

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Dr. Nasr is the author of over fifty books and over 500 articles. His works concern not only various aspects of Islamic studies but also comparative philosophy and religion, philosophy of art and the philosophical and religious dimensions of the environmental crisis.

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Jacob Olupona is Professor of African-American and African Studies at the University of California, Davis, President of African Association for the Study of Religions, and Chair of the American Academy of Religion’s (AAR) Committee on International Connections. He received his Ph.D. in religion from Boston University. Olupona and has taught at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and has served as a Fulbright Visiting Professor, an Academic Fellow at the Commonwealth Universities (England), Senior Fellow at Harvard University’s Center for the Study of Religions, and has been a recent recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and the University of California Research Fellowship. He has authored several publications including: Kinship, Religion, and Rituals in a Nigerian Community (Coronet Books, 1991), Beyond Primitivism: Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity (forthcoming), African Spirituality (forthcoming), and has edited or co-edited several additional books including: African Traditional Religions in Contemporary Society (Paragon 1991), and, co-edited with Suleyman Nyang, Religious Pluralism in Africa: Essays in Honor of John Mbiti (Mouton de Gruyter, 1993).
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Franklin E. Vilas, D.Min., known to his friends as “Skip”, was born and grew up in New York City. Attending Yale University and Virginia Theological Seminary, he was ordained to the Priesthood of the Episcopal Church in 1960. He has served as curate in St. Mark’s Church, New Canaan, Ct. and rector of St. John’s in Beverly Farms, MA, St. Anne’s in Brooklyn Heights, NY and St. Paul’s in Chatham, NJ.

In the 1970’s, Skip was Priest-in-Charge of Trinity Church, Wall Street and St. Paul’s Chapel in Lower Manhattan. He served for 5 years as Program Director of the Diocese of Connecticut, and for 6 as Executive Director of Wainwright House Conference Center in Rye, NY. Since retirement from Chatham in the year 2000, Skip and his wife Joyce have served as an interim team at All Saint’s, Bay Head, the Port Newark facility of the Seamen’s Church Institute, St. Andrew’s in New Providence and most recently have completed two years at St. Luke’s in Gladstone-Peapack, NJ.

During his career, Skip had been involved in the field of mental health, serving in the Carter administration as one of 12 members of the President’s Commission on Mental Health. In recent decades he has been engaged in the ministries of environmental stewardship and ecojustice. He is the founder of the national Episcopal Environmental Network (www.eenonline.org) and of GreenFaith, an interfaith statewide organization in New Jersey (www.GreenFaith.org). He serves on an interfaith advisory committee to the United Nations Environment Programme, and is a board member of the Temple of Understanding.

Skip and Joyce have been members of the congregation of St. Mary’s-by-the-Sea since 2001. They live at the Four Seasons community in Lakewood, and have two grown daughters, Virginia and Deborah, who are residents of Manhattan.

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