

1716 East Franklin Street • Richmond, VA 23223 • (804) 643-2474 • virginiainterfaithcenter.org

March 1, 2022

Dear Conferees:

As religious leaders from various faith traditions, we ask you to include affordable housing programs in Virginia's budget. The budget is a moral document, and we believe that everyone has the right to a safe and secure home. We feel called to speak out and ensure that our budget dollars support those most in need. Our faith traditions teach us that life is sacred and that we all deserve a secure shelter.

The department of Housing and Community Development "found a deficit of 300,000 affordable housing units, with a deficit of around 32,000 federal housing vouchers in Virginia alone," according to a study issued by the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget less than a month ago. United Way's ALICE report recognizes that the cost of housing is going up all over the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF) addresses the need to build more units, and we are grateful to see that both chambers included some funding in their proposed budgets. However, the House budget decreases the allocation for the VHTF to only \$110 million, while the Senate fund would allocate \$300 million over the biennium. We hope the conference committee sticks with the Senate version of the VHTF funding. The Housing Stability Fund language (amendment 114#2s) would lay the groundwork for a state rental assistance program, plugging the gap for federal vouchers. This language made it into the Senate version of the budget, but not the House version. There is no financial impact right now for this program, but having the language gets the Department of Housing and Community Development ready to move forward together. We hope the conference committee includes the language for the Housing Stability Fund in the final version of the budget.

Please keep the larger allocation for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, and maintain the language around the Housing Stability Fund as you come to a consensus about the Commonwealth's monetary priorities for the next two years.

It's up to you to make housing a priority in Virginia's budget. Thank you for considering this urgent request.

The following pages include the names of 153 clergy and faith leaders. Clergy's institutions are listed for identification purposes only.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy advocates social, economic, and racial justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer, and action.



Rt. Rev. Bronwen Boswell General Presbytery & Stated Clerk Presbytery of Shenandoah Harrsionburg

> Mrs. Sallie Grundman Baha'i Faith Winchester

Bishop Robert F Humphrey Virginia Synod, ELCA Harrisonburg

Mr. Daniel Villar Director of Ethnic Ministries Catholic Diocese of Richmond Richmond

Bishop Phillip Green Gospel Way Church of God in Christ Hampton

> Reverend Timothy Smith Skipwith UMC Midlothian

Rev. Dr. Anthony L. Fludd St. Johns Church of God in Christ Williamsburg

Reverend Herbert Brynildsen Trinity United Methodist N. Chestefield

> Dr. Gordon Mapes Chester Presbyterian Chester

Dr. Susan Kaufman Board President, Insight Mediation Community Charlottesville

> Bishop Sharma Lewis Virginia United Methodist Conference Glen Allen

Imam Rachid Khould Crescent Community Center Virginia Beach

Mrs. Wava Osborne Board President, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Highlands Meadowdview

Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook Interim Gen. Presbyter & Stated Clerk Presbytery of the James Troy

Reverend Rochelle Shoemaker Wesley Memorial UMC, Retired Charlottesville

Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith Church of the Holy Comforter Henrico

Reverend Charles Swadley Williamsburg UMC Williamsburg

Reverend Laura Martin Rock Spring UCC Reston Reverend Patricia Jones Turner Chair, Religious Affairs Committee Charlottesville NAACP

Bishop Susan Goff Bishop Suffragan, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia Richmond

Sister Adarsh Khalsa Raj Khalsa Gurdwara, Sikh Sterling

Bishop Peggy Johnson Retired, United Methodist Carrollton

Rev. Dr. Peter Yoo Ko Disciples of Christ Christian Annandale

Reverend Jay Campbell Mount Vernon UMC Alexandria

Reverend Michael Kendall Farmville United Methodist Church Farmville

> Reverend D. Byrd-Madison United Methodist Church Hampton

Reverend Judith Fender Burke United Methodist Church Springfield



Minister Sally Diaz-Wells Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church Arlington

Reverend Paul Oakley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Waynesboro

> Mr. Paul Amrhein St. Bridget Richmond

Reverend Daniel Wray West Campbell UMC Charge Leesburg

Reverend Craig Muffley Eastland United Methodist Reva

Reverend Gayle Porias Mt. Horeb United Methodist Alexandria

Reverend Valerie Hayes Calvary Episcopal Church Front Royal

Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Winchester

Reverend Daniel Velez St Gabriel's Episcopal Church Reston Rabbi Michael Knopf Temple Beth-El Richmond

Mrs. Renée Mccarthy Tidewater Sowers of Justice Va Beach

> Pastor Jeffrey Marble Morning Star Luray

Rev. Dr. Robert & Ms Chesnut Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church Glen Allen

Reverend Cornelia Weierbach Episcopal Church of the Spirit Arlington

Rev. Dr. Sarah Price St. Mark's Episcopal Church Richmond

Chaplain Dale Benedict Chester United Methodist Chesterfield

Deacon Antonio Remedios Our Lady Queen of Peace Arlington

Reverend Theresa Brion Chapel of All Saints Alexandria Reverend Timothy Hickey, Our Lady Queen of Peace Arlington

Rev. Dr. Edward Piper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro Staunton

> Pastor Rodney Hunter Wesley Memorial UMC Richmond

Mrs. Linda Smith Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Chesapeake

Pastor Charles J Comer Flat Rock Church of the Brethren Mount Jackson

Elder Phyllis Albritton Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Blacksburg

> Reverend Sandra Wisco Peace Lutheran (ELCA) Charlottesville

Reverend Grace Cangialosi Christ Episcopal Church, Brandy Station Ruckersville

Apostle Sarah Kelley Faith Hope and Love Healing and Deliverance Center Charlottesville



Reverend Donna Holder Westover Hills United Methodist Midlothian

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green First Baptist of South Richmond Richmond

> Rev. Dr. Janet Winslow Bon Air Presbyterian Richmond

Reverend Joe Medlin First Congregational Christian UCC Midlothian

Reverend Michael Sanborn Park United Methodist Church (Christiansburg) Elliston

Reverend Lauren Eanes Muhlenberg Lutheran Church Harrisonburg

Canon Jonathan Harris Trinity Episcopal Church Roanoke

Elder Nancy Craft Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Virginia Beach

Reverend Julia Dorsey Loomis Trinity Episcopal Portsmouth Reverend Kathryn Monfortte Church and Society Education

> United Methodist Alexandria

Minister Brenda Williams Russell Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Chesterfield

> Dr. Kevin Ogle Disciples of Christ Falls Church

Reverend Melody Porter Boulevard United Methodist Church Richmond

> Rev. Dr. Nancy Morris retired - PC-USA Roanoke

Pastor Katie Gosswein Edinburg Lutheran Parish Edinburg

Rabbi Ellen Jaffe-Gill Tidewater Chavurah Virginia Beach

Dr. Douglas Norell Vice President, Valley Interfaith Council Winchester

> Rev. Dr. Gay Einstein Retired Presbyterian Charlottesville

Reverend Kevin Agee Washington-Virginia District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church Alexandria

Reverend Renee Jones Belmont United Methodist Chantilly

Reverend Eric Anspaugh Central Church of the Brethren Rocky Mount

Rev. Dr. Linda Ray Chamberlayne Heights UMC Richmond

Reverend William Levwood Accotink Unitarian Universalist Richmond

Reverend Ashley Urquidi Assoc. Rector, Old Donation Episcopal Virginia Beach

Pastor John Wertz Director for Evangelical Mission, Virginia Synod, ELCA Blacksburg

Reverend Jim Mauney Retired Bishop & Pastor, ELCA Salem

Deacon Lisa Geiger St. Michael Lutheran Church Virginia Beach



Sister Tiberh Hagos Comboni Sisters Richmond

Rev. Dr. Janine Howard Fairlington UMC Alexandria

Reverend Theresa Lewallen Deacon, Episcopal Diocese of VA Alexandria

> Pastor Don Coleman East End Fellowship Richmond

Reverend Carla Pratt Keyes Ginter Park Presbyterian Church Henrico

Minister John Richards Mount Zion Baptist church Fredericksburgs

Reverend Shelby Owen Emmanuel Episcopal (Staunton) Richmond

Pastor Gwendolyn Minor MACEDONIA A.M.E. CHURCH Hampton

Father Michael Lamanna Sacred Heart Catholic Church Richmond Rev. Dr. Kenneth Veazey Lynnhaven Colony UCC Virginia Beach

Reverend Lauren Ramseur Voices of Jubilee, PCUSA Henrico

Rev. Dr. Archana Samuel Sherbourne UMC Henrico

Reverend Amy Russell Unitarian Universalist Community Church Richmond

> Rabbi Gary Creditor Temple Beth-El Richmond

Rabbi David Katz Temple Beth-El Williamsburg

Pastor Reginald Davis First Baptist Church of Williamsburg Williamsburg

Reverend Laura Horton-Ludwig Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists Williamsburg

Reverend Katherine Stanford Old Presbyterian Meeting House Alexandria Reverend Ellen Longmoore Retired chaplain Nellysford

Reverend Reuben Boyd Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Richmond

Rev. Dr. Lester Frye Healing and Living Waters Ministries Henrico

> Rabbi Ahuva Zaches Congregation Or Ami Richmond

Sister Maria Jose Silva Our Lady of Lourdes Richmond

Reverend Amy Redwine First Presbyterian Church Richmond Richmond

Reverend Max Blalock William and Mary Wesley Foundation Williamsburg

Rev. Dr. Patricia Shipley Centenary UMC Richmond

Reverend Kelly Bayer Derrick Virginia Synod ELCA Roanoke

Clergy Call for Affordable Housing in the 2022-2024 Budget



Pastor John Kenney Third Baptist Church Henrico

Dr. Elizabeth Emrey New Beginnings Christian Community Charlottesville

Pastor Devin Coles Union Baptist Church Charlottesville

Reverend Edward Winkler Mount Horeb and Mount Pleasant United Methodist Churches Charlottesville

> Reverend Susan Steinberg Retired, Presbyterian Charlottesville

Reverend Mildred Best UVA Chaplains Charlottsville

Pastor Nathan Walton Vineyard Christian Community Charlottesville, Va

> Father Fred Poteet Old Donation Episcopal Virginia Beach

Reverend Hollie Woodruff Seventh Street Christian Church Richmond Reverend Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra Westminster Presbyterian Church Charlottesville

> Deacon Don Gathers New Beginnings Christian Community Charlottesville

Reverend Heidi Moore Resurrection Lutheran Church Fredericksburg

> Reverend Erik Davidson Lyndale Baptist Church N. Chesterfield

Father Robert Randall Rector, Old Donation Episcopal Virginia Beach

Reverend Isabel Steilberg Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia Newport News

Reverend Robert Lewis Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church Charlottesville

Rev. Dr. Charles Summers Salisbury Presbyterian Church Richmond

Pastor Brenda Brown-Grooms New Beginnings Christian Community Charlottesville Reverend Jacqueline Nophlin Household of Faith Community Church Bristol

Dr. Andy Brock Fieldale and Mount Bethel Cooperative Parish Winchester

Sharon Beckman-Brindley Insight Meditation Community Earlysville

Reverend Charles Ellis Retired, Disciples of Christ Vinton

Reverend Mary Johns Presbytery of the James Colonial Heights

Elder Jan Prentace-Commander Wallace Memorial UMC Newport News

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Campbell St. Paul's Episcopal Richmond

> Rev. Dr. Laura George Oracle Temple Independence

Reverend Aiden Barnes SEVASH (Southeastern Virginia Atheists Skeptics & Humanists) Virginia Beach

Clergy Call for Affordable Housing in the 2022-2024 Budget



Minister Jack Flowers HRBC Midlothian

Pastor Colleen Montgomery Virginia Synod, ELCA Salem

> Rev. Dr. Chris Scott the exchange church Winchester

Mrs. Jaimey Honea River Road UMC Midlothian

Brother Vernon Savage African Methodist Episcopal Zion Norfolk

> Reverend Terrie Sternberg Trinity Lutheran Church Pulaski

Cantor Dara Rosenblatt Temple Beth-El Richmond

Rev. Dr. Kay Rodgers Retired, United Church of Christ Reston

> Reverend Jen Kimball Abingdon Episcopal Gloucester

Richmond

Reverend Mary Jane Winter

Second Presbyterian Richmond

Elder William Freeman Dunn's Chapel UMC Varina

Reverend Sherman Logan First Unitarian Universalist Sandston Reverend Sarah Wiles Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Blacksburg

Rev. Canon Liz Hulme Adam Tabor Presbyterian Church Crozet

Reverend Michael Evans Centenary United Church of Christ Winchester

Reverend Juli Wilson-Black Fairlington Presbyterian Church Reston

Reverend Bertina Westley Stephens City UMC Winchester

Rev. Dr. Katrina Brown Bethel Baptist Gloucester Point