



Chapter and Affiliate Agreement

Welcome to the network of chapters and affiliates with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). **VICPP's mission is to engage people of faith and goodwill in advocating racial, social, and economic justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer and action.** VICPP believes that religious communities live out their faiths by exercising their voice and influence in the public sphere.

VICPP has two types of affiliated organizations which connect the central office with geographic groups. **Chapters** are organizations that form primarily to support and further the mission of VICPP. Although the chapters can work on local concerns, they focus primarily on the issues that are selected statewide. **Affiliates** are organizations that existed before their relationship to VICPP, but want to affiliate with VICPP to further their faith voice in the public arena, especially on state policies and practices.

The purpose of the agreement is to nurture, strengthen and energize the growing collaboration between the affiliates and chapters at the local level and the statewide organization, and to invite people of faith and goodwill to be a part of racial, social, and economic justice throughout Virginia. Through this agreement VICPP seeks to cultivate a network that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Shared Mission and Goals

VICPP and the Chapter or Affiliate represent that their primary organizational or program mission includes the following core components (although the language may vary):

- Educating and mobilizing the religious community to address injustice in racial, social, and economic spheres in Virginia.
- Building relationships between diverse faith communities and standing with one another in times of struggle.
- Lifting a faith voice and perspective with Virginia's policymakers on justice issues.
- Honoring and respecting the differences among us while seeking unity on issues of common concern.

Support VICPP Provides to Chapters and Affiliates

VICPP facilitates and supports activities of chapters and affiliates that are consistent with the shared mission and goals of the organization. VICPP will:

- Develop and provide educational resources on VICPP's policy priorities.
- Outline strategies and ways chapters and affiliates can support VICPP's policy priorities.

- Provide speakers for programs (as able).
- Maintain a website that promotes the chapters and affiliates.
- Promote the overall work of the chapters and affiliates through publications.
- Provide training for using the membership database.
- Organize an annual advocacy day in Richmond to meet with legislators.
- Grant chapters and affiliates the non-exclusive right to use VICPP copyrighted materials, name, logos and other symbols developed by VICPP, without any fees.

Agreements of the Chapters and Affiliates

Chapters will:

- Support VICPP’s annual public policy priorities as its legislative agenda.
- Raise policy issues for consideration by VICPP’s Board or Executive Director as appropriate or desired.
- Seek advice from VICPP staff about issues beyond VICPP’s legislative agenda. Generally, chapters should not take on issues outside of the organizational mission (though affiliates may).
- Recruit people to participate in key VICPP programs such as:
 - The Day for All People (January lobby day)
 - Living Wage business certification
 - Civic Engagement and voter turnout efforts
- Encourage individuals to become financial supporters.
- Promote the shared mission and goals within the chapter’s geographic territory.
- Acknowledge the relationship to VICPP in public materials and websites.
- Recruit a volunteer to work with VICPP on maintaining and using the database.
- Prepare for and organize at least one meeting per year with delegates and senators representing districts within the chapter’s geographic catchment area.

Affiliates will interact with VICPP in the same way as chapters listed above with two exceptions:

- Affiliates are not asked to engage in membership database updates.
- Given that affiliates formed prior to developing a relationship with VICPP, they may remain active in other policy issues, so long as it is clear that those issue positions do not contradict VICPP values, and it is clear they are not under VICPP auspices.

Tone and Approach

VICPP and the Chapter or Affiliate commit to having a respectful tone and approach, often faith-based, but welcoming participants of goodwill who may not associate with a faith tradition. In their work and approach, the organizations will:

- Seek to enlist leaders from diverse religious, racial, ethnic, age and gender backgrounds.
- Use peaceful language, and faith-based references where appropriate.
- Remain nonpartisan, working across the political spectrum in efforts to achieve shared

- policy goals.
- Avoid taking positions on issues that are internally divisive within broad segments of the religious community.

Ending the Agreement

The purpose of the agreement is to nurture, strengthen and energize the growing collaboration between the affiliates and chapters at the local level and the statewide organization. Through this agreement VICPP seeks to cultivate an enduring network that is greater than the sum of its parts.

On rare occasions, affiliates or chapters may find that their goals and priorities no longer align with those of VICPP. In those instances, written correspondence from the affiliate, chapter or VICPP would notify an intent to end affiliate or chapter status. Upon disassociation, the chapter or affiliate would desist from using VICPP’s marketing material, name or prior resources and VICPP will agree to remove the affiliate’s name from its informational and promotional materials.

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Affiliation Agreement

On behalf of the leadership of the: Affiliate Organization or Chapter

Organization’s Full Name _____

Signed _____ Title _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Title _____ Date _____

On behalf of the leadership of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

Signed _____ Title _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Title _____ Date _____