

Who is VICPP?

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) is a nonprofit with more than 40 years of experience bringing faith and justice into Virginia's public sphere. VICPP connects more than 20,000 advocates and more than 700 faith communities in legislative advocacy.

What is our mission?

VICPP engages people of faith and good will to advocate economic, social and racial justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer, and action.

What does partnership mean?

Partner faith communities make an organizational commitment to putting faith into action through justice. More than 60 Virginia congregations are VICPP partners.

Issue and program overview

Civic Engagement

VICPP strives to ensure that every voice is heard in Virginia's decision-making process. VICPP supports congregations and chapters to offer non-partisan voter education, increase voter turnout, promote election protection, and build relationships with elected officials.

Racial Equity

VICPP upholds the value and dignity of Black, immigrant, indigenous and other people of color. Given Virginia's legacy of slavery and discrimination, all issues are considered with a racial impact lens. VICPP builds relationships across racial divides, and stands with the immigrant community.

Economic Justice

VICPP seeks an economy where all can thrive. VICPP has advocated legislation to increase the minimum wage, require paid sick days for all, prevent wage theft, and protect workers. VICPP also champions a living wage certification program for all employers.

Affordable Housing

VICPP supports increasing the supply and affordability of housing, along with the rights of people to remain housed. People must be housed first to be able to address all other issues. VICPP is exploring how congregations can do more to foster affordable housing.

Criminal Justice Reform

VICPP collaborates with affected individuals to build a more just criminal justice system. VICPP seeks to reduce the criminalization of poverty, increase access to higher education in prison, restore voting rights, and end mass incarceration.

Health Equity

VICPP advocates increased access to quality, affordable health care for all. VICPP led the faith engagement to expand Medicaid and access to maternal healthcare. VICPP focuses on reducing discrimination in care and expanding healthcare to vulnerable populations.

Commitments

Congregational Partners commit to:

- **Designate a congregational liaison.**
 - Liaisons will keep up with VICPP news and priorities.
 - Liaisons are invited to monthly planning and discussion sessions.
- **Offer at least three VICPP programs** throughout each year. Some examples include:
 - *Day for All People* - VICPP's flagship advocacy day in Richmond, held the third Wednesday in January every year. (*All partners should have members participate*)
 - Invite VICPP staff to speak at your faith community.
 - Host a prayer vigil or action event.
 - Plan an event to increase voter turnout.
 - Invite members of your congregation to participate in meetings with legislators.
 - Consider participating in other VICPP initiatives:
 - Become a Living Wage Certified employer.
 - Join the Virginia Consensus for Higher Education in Prison
 - Become a 100% Voting congregation.
 - Collaborate in an event with local VICPP chapter/ affiliate.
- **Include VICPP in your annual budget.** This could look like:
 - Line-item in budget for the faith community.
 - Special collection once a year (or for one month out of the year)
 - Designated fundraiser for VICPP (house party, selling fair trade items, seasonal fundraisers, etc.)

VICPP commits to:

- Recognize congregational partners on our website.
- Uplift the actions of our congregational partners through social media.
- Provide resources for education, civic engagement, and justice-focused prayer.
- Host monthly Lunch & Learns for liaisons and other key leaders at partner congregations to share resources and build relationships.
- Create and share newsletter and social media announcements at least once per month.
- Share information on issue initiatives for congregational involvement.
- Reach out to partner congregations when events (including legislative visits, policy overviews, and chapter meetings) are happening in the area.
- Support congregational partners by offering resources and speakers as appropriate.

Interested in learning more?

Reach out to VICPP's Director of Faith Organizing,
Sheila Herlihy Hennessee: sheila@virginiainterfaithcenter.org or 804-821-1768