

Social Action while Social Distancing

If you are one of the tens of thousands of Virginians who are social distancing at home and have time to help your neighbors across the Commonwealth, below are some ways that you can help Virginia Interfaith Center advocate economic, racial, social and environmental justice during this “shelter at home” time.

Encourage the Governor to Remove the Farmworker Exemption from the Minimum Wage

Key staff contact: Amanda Silcox (Amanda@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Sign [VICPP’s petition to the Governor](#).
- Recruit 20 friends to sign the petition.
- Contact your Senator and Delegate about the issue. [LINK to Who’s My Legislator](#)
- Write an op-ed about the issue for a local paper or our online publication. (VICPP will help edit it for you if you would like.)
- Share VICPP social media posts about the issue.
“Like” our [Facebook posts](#)
Retweet [Twitter posts](#)
- Connect VICPP with congregations that serve farmworkers.

Support undocumented immigrants living and working in Virginia

Key staff contacts: Yanet Limon-Amado (Yanet@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

Jase Hatcher (Jase@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- **Donate** to COVID-19 relief funds for undocumented workers: [Cosecha](#) and/or [Betancourt Macias Family Scholarship Foundation](#)
- Call immigrant congregations in your community and ask how you can help.
- Coordinate with VICPP about that outreach.
- Help VICPP staff translate documents into Spanish and other languages.

Celebrate Earth Day (April 22)/Climate Action Week (April 17-26)

Key staff contacts: Kendyl Crawford (Kendyl@vaipi.org) and Geran Lorraine (Geran@vaipi.org)

- [Sign the petition to tell Governor Northam to stop the pipeline work during the pandemic so that pipeline workers are not endangered and they do not spread the virus in rural communities. Join the Friday Earth Month Webinars during April. Link for more info:](#)
- Participate in interfaith Creation Care Earth Month virtual services:

- April 19 at 2 p.m.: National Earth Day Worship Service- (details to follow)
- [April 22 at noon: Nationwide Climate Prayer- National IPL](#)
- Send thank you notes to Delegates Herring, Keam and Senators Hashmi and Locke for their work on environmental justice legislation recently passed in the General Assembly. [LINK to Who's My Legislator](#)
- Visit the VA IPL Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/VAIPL> to retweet VA IPL's thank you graphics to them. Send our sign on letter thanking the Governor for signing the legislation to a clergy leader in your network
- Use social media to bring awareness to your circle of friends about Earth Month and how you are caring for Creation as a person of faith. Use the hashtags #VAEarthDay2020, #EARTHRISE, #Faith4ED2020
- Join the Friday [climate action webinars during April](#).

Build your Faith Community's Green Team to work on environmental issues

Key staff contact: Kiquanda Baker (KBaker@vaipl.org)

- Invite your green team to become a partner with VA IPL to receive resources to support your work.
- Recruit people to join your congregation's Green Team or start your own.
- Distribute information from your Green Team about what everyone in the congregation can do to fight climate change.

Help VICPP win passage of a Paid Sick Day bill in 2021

Key staff contact: Amanda Silcox (Amanda@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Contact your Senator. Thank the Senator if he/she voted (initially) for the Paid Sick Day bill, SB 481. [LINK to Who's My Legislator](#)
Ask questions if the Senator voted no. See how the Senators voted at: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+vot+SV0545SB0481+SB0481>
- Contact your Delegate. Thank the Delegate if he/she voted for the Paid Sick Day bill, SB 481. Ask questions if the Delegate voted no. [Link to see how the Delegates voted](#)
- Assemble stories about the need for Paid Sick Days – during regular times. Videotape or write the stories. Share with VICPP.

Build or revive your Faith Community's Social Action Ministry

Key staff contact: Dora Muhammad (Dora@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Review Virginia Interfaith [Center's Congregational Partner Guide](#).
- Become or recruit someone to become the liaison with VICPP (and let Dora know)
- Schedule a regular call with your social action ministry – monthly or perhaps weekly during the pandemic. Schedule regular activities you can do together during each call. VICPP can help with suggested activities for social action while social distancing.
- Develop a Faithful Citizenship program to become a 100 percent voting congregation.
- Host an online Advocacy training with VICPP for your social action team.

Raise funds for the Virginia Interfaith Center

Key staff contact: Keisha Walker-Williams (Keisha@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Consider donating to VICPP to support social justice advocacy. [Link to give online](#)
- Host a virtual house party to raise funds from friends – invite 10 friends to learn more about and donate to the organization.
- Host a Facebook birthday fundraiser.

Build or support a VICPP chapter/affiliate

Key staff contact: Kim Bobo (Kim@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Work with VICPP to build a new chapter or affiliate in your community if it doesn't exist.
- Join and support an existing VICPP chapter.
- Reach out to congregations in your community to help identify and connect congregations' social action committees with the chapter.

Use your communications skills

Key staff contact: Roberta Oster (Roberta@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Join VICPP's Social Media Team and post regularly on social media.
- Write and submit a letter-to-the editor on VICPP issues.
- Write op-eds as needed on VICPP priority issues.
- "Like" our [Facebook posts](#)
Retweet [Twitter posts](#)

Use your research skills

Key staff contact: Benjamin Hoyne (Benjamin@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

- Collect and compile information about attorneys who might help with wage theft cases in Virginia, given the new private cause of action.
- Gather information about congregations in Virginia that serve immigrants and might help on farmworker advocacy.