



Valley Interfaith Project

To a faith leader considering a pastoral role at Valley Unitarian Universalist (Chandler, AZ):

Valley Unitarian Universalist (VUU) has been a vital member institution of Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) for several years.

VIP is a broad-based, non-partisan organization of dues-paying institutions (congregations, schools, unions, and non-profit associations) committed to building power for sustainable economic and social change for the common good. VIP has been organizing in Maricopa County for more than 30 years.

VUU has made important contributions to advancing VIP's Human Development Agenda by holding house meetings and civic academies to hear stories about how real people are affected by the pressures experienced by their families and to educate themselves and their neighbors about issues affecting the community. Members of VUU Congregation have played a critical part in VIP's years-long effort to secure sustainable funding for K-12 public education and reverse an entrenched pattern of disinvestment in Arizona's children.

VIP has an active faith leader and clergy caucus, in which you would be invited to participate. This caucus has played a prominent role with VIP to promote justice and equity within the state.

Additionally, VIP offers the Ryle Faith Leaders Public Policy Institute on an annual basis. The Ryle Institute focuses on building the capacity of clergy and lay leaders to grapple with complex state issues that affect the well-being of families and communities. The Institute has created an environment where clergy grapple with leading experts and policy makers whom they would otherwise not have access to. The Ryle Institute also creates an environment to meet and collaborate with colleagues who understand the tensions of congregational life. Faith leaders new to the region and state have found the Institute to be useful in providing the social and political context of Maricopa County and Arizona. Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette, formerly pastor at VUU, played an active role on the steering committee of the VIP Ryle Institute, and helped shape its direction from its inception.

VIP looks forward to greeting a new pastoral and community leader at VUU!

Rev. Martha Seaman, VIP Board President

Jason Lowry, VIP Lead Organizer