

Excerpts from Religious Leaders on the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Campaign for Fair Food

The Rev. Michael Livingston (Executive Director, International Council of Community Churches)

"This agreement [CIW-McDonald's] represents a tremendous step forward in the struggle for dignity and justice for farmworkers and the transformation of the agricultural industry toward greater respect for human rights. Though an incredible victory, our celebration should be tempered by the truth that we still have far to go to extend these just gains for farmworkers to other companies and to create a truly just food system. Yes, we mean you... Subway and Chipotle and all the rest of the fast-food companies who continue to offer explanations, rationales, and excuses for business practices and policies that do not meet the standard of a basic tenant of Christianity--treat your neighbor as yourself. "



Most Reverend William Murphy (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

"The Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomes and applauds the impressive agreement reached between the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Burger King Corporation... This important agreement has been made possible first and foremost by the persistent work of the CIW in defending the lives, dignity and rights of farm workers."



The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick (Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.))

"We do this [support the CIW] because scripture calls us to be stewards of God's creation, which includes our economic life, and because we follow Jesus Christ who, as a poor man himself, inaugurated his own ministry by bringing "good news to the poor." . . . Any corporation which benefits through the exploitation of others is gravely implicated in such exploitation and has a moral and ethical responsibility to end that exploitation."



The Rev. Linda Jaramillo (Executive Minister, Justice & Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ)

"The United Church of Christ has a long history of working for social and economic justice. We have a special interest in farm workers, people with whom Jesus would have particularly identified himself. He would have classified them among "the least" of God children when viewed through the lens of social and economic privilege. But as beloved children of God, farm workers are entitled to an equitable portion of the abundance God gives this world."



The Rt. Rev. Leo Frade (Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida)

"The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has established a working model for corporate social responsibility that advances and ensures the human rights of farm workers in the corporate supply chain... and it is only a matter of time before other fast-food corporations will realize they too must respond to the call for justice and respect for the human rights of farmworkers... Like Episcopalians around the country, [we] are standing with the CIW in the growing movement for fair food and corporate social responsibility, and will continue to do so until justice and dignity are won."



Robert Keithan (Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Washington Office on Advocacy)

"The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has a long-standing commitment to supporting the health and well-being of farmworkers. While progress has been made since our first policy statement in 1961, we know that many farm workers in the United States still face harsh and often unsafe working conditions for unlivable wages and no benefits. These conditions are not in line with the ethical values we believe should be upheld by major American corporations."



Bishop Timothy Whitaker (Bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church)

"I do not need to tell you what a difference this additional income and rights make in the lives of these hardworking persons who offer the most basic service of our society, which is providing us with food to eat... I am very impressed with the work of CIW and Interfaith Action. Along with other Christian communions, our Church does all we can to support these fine organizations that are doing work in the world."



**Interfaith
Action**

Educating and animating people of faith to partner with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) for farmworker justice and dignity.

239-986-0688 * 1107 New Market Rd. Immokalee FL 34142 * www.interfaithact.org