

IN SUPPORT OF MAKING FAST FOOD FAIR FOOD: THE NEXT STEP

Mr. Karl Hayes, Chair of Committee Eight, moved the adoption of the resolution, “In Support of Making Fast Food Fair Food: The Next Step.” No changes were made.
05-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts the resolution “In Support of Making Fast Food Fair Food: The Next Step”
July, 2005

IN SUPPORT OF MAKING FAST FOOD FAIR FOOD: THE NEXT STEP

WHEREAS on March 8, 2005, an historic agreement was reached between Taco Bell and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) which includes a 75% wage increase for Florida farm workers who pick fresh tomatoes for Taco Bell – workers who have been earning the same piece-wage as in 1978; and

WHEREAS in this groundbreaking agreement, Taco Bell agrees to work in partnership with the CIW to investigate cases of farm worker abuse and indentured servitude, and to broaden its supplier code of conduct, encouraging Florida tomato growers to provide working terms and conditions similar to those provided by suppliers outside of the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS although Taco Bell is a significant purchaser of fresh Florida tomatoes, other fast food corporations, including McDonald’s, Burger King and Subway also purchase vast quantities of Florida tomatoes; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and dignity, including past boycotts of lettuce, grapes, Campbell’s products, Mt. Olive Pickles and Taco Bell;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we celebrate this precedent-setting agreement which acknowledges the need for reform in an industry where workers do not enjoy the same rights and conditions as employees in other industries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the churches of the United Church of Christ to support the CIW by contacting the CEO’s of McDonald’s, Burger King and Subway through calls, letters and e-mails asking them to join with Taco Bell in working with the CIW and use their power to improve the wages and conditions of the workers in their supply chain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ support the CIW in its efforts to extend this new model of corporate social responsibility throughout the fast food industry, and consider joining with CIW as a member of the Fair Food Alliance. Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

The Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to develop the strategy and program to implement this resolution.