

Resolution Affirming Workers' Rights to Form Unions and Bargain Collectively

The Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ, May 2011

- 1 Whereas, as followers of Jesus Christ we are called to work for economic justice, especially in times of
2 growing income gaps, persistent poverty, and increasing corporate wealth;
3
- 4 Whereas, the right to organize, form, or join a union is a fundamental, internationally recognized human
5 right listed in the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights;
6
- 7 Whereas, all economic life should be shaped by moral principles, and institutions are judged by how they
8 protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person, we believe a fundamental moral measure of
9 any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are treated;
10
- 11 Whereas, the 21st General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the "Resolution Affirming
12 Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy" which: "reaffirms the heritage of the United
13 Church of Christ as an advocate for just, democratic, participatory and inclusive economic policies in both
14 public and private sectors, including...the responsibility of workers to organize for collective bargaining
15 with employers regarding wages, benefits, and working conditions, and the responsibility of employers to
16 respect not only worker rights but also workers' dignity, and to create and maintain a climate conducive to
17 the workers' autonomous decision to organize";
18
- 19 Therefore, be it resolved, that the Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ (CPC) affirms that
20 workers have the right to organize and bargain with their employers over wages, benefits and a voice on
21 the job.
22
- 23 Be it further resolved that the CPC urges elected leaders to honor collective bargaining agreements
24 negotiated openly and in good faith and desist from forwarding laws and other measures that make it
25 nearly impossible for workers to organize and maintain freely elected unions.
26
- 27 Be it further resolved that the CPC urges elected leaders to consider the cost to the public's wellbeing and
28 the downward economic spiral that would be set in motion by abrupt and wholesale cuts to public services
29 like education, health care and public safety.
30
- 31 Be it further resolved that the CPC call upon its members to pray that all workers are treated with respect
32 and dignity, and that elected leaders come together with workers to address budget challenges and
33 explore equitable options for the future.
34
- 35 Cost analysis: there are no foreseeable direct costs to the CPC by this action. Individual congregations
36 may incur costs based on particular actions.
37
- 38 As people of faith, we are called to stand with workers as they seek dignity on the job, a voice at work, and
39 a fair share of the resources God provides.
40
- 41 Submitted by: The Justice & Witness Ministry Team, Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ.