



Action of the Month: Living Wage

Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10 in 2010

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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Celeste Cook cares for disabled people in their Atlanta homes, preparing meals and medicines, giving baths, and wheeling clients into fresh air on sunny days. She loves her job. But as a health care worker, Celeste can not afford health insurance for herself or her family members because she is paid the minimum wage — a poverty wage.

In downtown Cleveland, Rodney Campbell gets up at 5 o'clock every morning to clean office buildings for \$6.55 per hour. He takes pride in his work. But when Rodney goes home, he struggles to provide for his children, sometimes relying on food banks to put dinner on the table. He worries about his kids' future.



Celeste and Rodney are not alone. The minimum wage is set so low that millions of people working full time on low wages (whether minimum wage or above minimum wage) are constantly choosing which necessities to go without: paying rent or buying food, paying for childcare or paying for healthcare.

This month's action will help bring the minimum wage closer to a living wage by supporting the *Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign* to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10 in 2010. In hard economic times it is more important than ever for people of faith to stand with low-wage workers and their families.

See the *UUA Action of Immediate Witness 2008 to Raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$10 in 2010*

www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/115810.shtml

The UUA and the UUUSC are members of the interfaith Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign that played a lead role in winning the current federal increase of \$6.55 per hour that will be raised to \$7.25 per hour in 2009. Even after the minimum wage rises to \$7.25 in July 2009, it will still be far below the minimum wage of 1968!

Take Action Join hundreds of congregations around the country and hold a Let Justice Roll Living Wage Worship Service or Community Event on the weekend of Jan. 10-11th or Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend on Jan. 17-19th or another weekend in January..

- Invite low-wage workers and their families to share testimonials at your services and events.
- Gather Signatures for Faith Leaders, General Public & Business Leaders Letters to Congress for \$10 in 10 to be Delivered to the New Congress in 2009 www.letjusticeroll.org/index.html.
- Consider holding a special offering for the Let Justice Roll Living Wage Campaign.
- **Living Wage Days Worship & Event Resource Guide** has worship and educational resources; policy

Congregational Success First UU Church of Nashville (FUUN) Tennessee is working with the Interfaith Committee of Middle Tennessee Jobs with Justice on a city-wide living wage campaign. FUUN has been successful at supporting and fundraising for the coalition that includes African American, immigrant, student and homeless groups. They are also helping to organize a new workers' center.

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