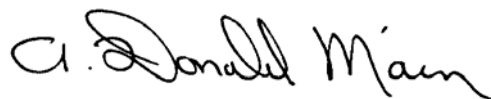


A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RAISE THE COMMONWEALTH'S MINIMUM WAGE

- WHEREAS the ranks of the working poor have grown in this country, with low-wage workers unable to support themselves and their families, even though they work several jobs, trying to make ends meet; and
- WHEREAS poverty has become a disease, striking at the very heart of the United States, attacking the most vulnerable, even as the wealthy few continue to accumulate far more than their reasonable share; and
- WHEREAS it is unacceptable that such a state of affairs be allowed to continue here in our Commonwealth, as year after year, Congress fails to pass an increase in the federal minimum wage; and
- WHEREAS prophetic voices throughout the ages have called upon those in power to show justice to the poorest and most vulnerable in society, with the prophet Amos exhorting the people of Israel, "Hate evil and love good, and establish justice. Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"; and
- WHEREAS the situation among minimum wage workers is particularly dire, with a minimum wage employee—at \$5.15 an hour, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, \$10,700 a year—earning \$5,000 below the federal poverty line for a family of three; and
- WHEREAS the real value of the minimum wage today is nearly \$4.00 less than it was in 1968; and
- WHEREAS in order for the minimum wage to have the same purchasing power as it did in 1968, the federal minimum wage would have to be raised to more than \$9.00; and
- WHEREAS over 860,000 Pennsylvanians and their families would benefit from increasing the Commonwealth's minimum wage to \$7.15 per hour; and
- WHEREAS this situation is unconscionable, as the wealth of our nation continues to be built on the backs of the working poor; and
- WHEREAS a job should keep our citizens out of poverty, not in it;
- RESOLVED the assembled people of God are called upon to establish justice for low-wage workers, whose cries are so often heard across our state. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches—43 church bodies and agencies representing 20 Anabaptist, Anglican, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Protestant communions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania working together for Christian unity for the sake of the world—calls on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to raise the Commonwealth's minimum wage to \$6.15 per hour immediately, and to \$7.15 per hour by January 1, 2007.



Bishop A. Donald Main, president
The Pennsylvania Council of Churches
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