

## **Economic Justice – Household Workers**

### **A Resolution Approved By General Synod IX (1973)**

*Whereas*, the household workers of America are one of the most exploited, underpaid, overworked and neglected segments of this nation's work force; and

*Whereas*, the official figures are stated as 1.5 million<sup>1</sup>, special reports, however, count between two and three million household workers<sup>1</sup>; and

*Whereas*, the median wage of a full time worker ranges between \$1,000 and \$2,000 annually; and

*Whereas*, 200,000 household workers are heads of families, responsible for the support of other adults or children or both, as well as themselves; and

*Whereas*, household workers rarely receive standard benefits such as sick leave, paid vacations and holidays, and unemployment and workmen's compensation; and

*Whereas*, household workers are excluded from minimum wage legislation; and

*Whereas*, one out of every three household workers work more than 40 hours per week; and

*Whereas*, 9790 of all household workers are women; and

*Whereas*, approximately two-thirds of the household workers are black, with the remaining third comprised of Mexican American, American Indians, other minorities and whites;

*Therefore* the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges local churches, association, conferences and national Instrumentalities:

- 1) To give broad support to the struggle of household workers for adequate wages and common working benefits, including paid vacations and holidays, sick leave and workmen's and unemployment compensation;
- 2) To contact their Senators in support of Bill S1861, which has passed the House of Representatives and is currently in a Senate Sub-Committee. This Bill would provide a Federal Minimum wage coverage for household employees;
- 3) To utilize our staff and financial resources in locating and enabling the National Committee on Household Employment to develop local household workers associations; and
- 4) Requests the Task Force on Women in Church and Society to establish as a priority during the next biennium, the economic liberation of household workers. The Task Force should seek to educate the women of the United Church of Christ fellowship who are employers of household workers concerning the economic plight of their sisters and urge their action in the passing of a compliance with the minimum wage law;
- 5) Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to claim household workers as a vital part of the population of the working poor and to develop educational resources to interpret their plight and build a national network of support for the cause.
- 6) Requests the Council for Christian Social Action to monitor legislation at the national level and to participate in action to shape a public policy of justice for household workers.

<sup>1</sup> National Committee on Household Employment, "Why" Pamphlet