

01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Boycott of Taco Bell.”

**IN SUPPORT OF THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and dignity, including support for past boycotts of lettuce, table grapes, and Campbell’s products, as well as the current boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle Company products;

WHEREAS, the Immokalee, Florida based SixL’s company, one of the biggest tomato producers in the United States, continues to pay the industry’s lowest piece rate to its pickers, the same piece rate it paid in 1978 (40 cents for every 32-pound of tomatoes picked);

WHEREAS, SixL’s has refused to meet with farm worker representatives to discuss issues of justice and dignity;

WHEREAS, the SixL’s company contracts with Taco Bell to provide a year-round supply of tomatoes;

WHEREAS, given the sheer volume of Immokalee tomatoes it buys to supply its worldwide operations, and given its size and economic strength, Taco Bell has power to help bring about more modern and more equitable labor relations in Immokalee’s tomato fields but has refused to meet with farm worker representatives such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to discuss justice for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2001, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, believing that the large corporations that buy Florida tomatoes must step up to their responsibility by demanding, and obtaining changes in the shameful “sweatshop” pay and working conditions suffered by the men and women who pick their tomatoes, declared a national boycott of Taco Bell;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell outlets and products until such time as Taco Bell meets with representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and with representatives of the SixL’s company and other members of the Florida tomato industry to effect substantive action to improve the wages and working conditions of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes that go into Taco Bell products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon members of the United Church of Christ to express their concern for farm worker justice in letters and calls to Emil J. Brolick, President and Chief Concept Officer, Taco Bell Corp., 17901 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92614-6221 (tel. 949863-4500); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third General Synod calls on the Justice and Witness Ministries to report to the Twenty-Fourth General Synod on the results of

this action (and in the interim to the Executive Council), and to notify the members and churches via regular United Church of Christ communications of the progress of the boycott.