Resolution on Worker Justice at Smithfield

Resolution of Witness

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Smithfield Packing plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina has a history of intimidating, threatening and harassing workers who engage in organizing activities to defend their rights, improve their working conditions and ensure their wellbeing in the workplace;

WHEREAS, Smithfield Packing continues to delay and deny justice for Smithfield workers;

WHEREAS, the efforts of consumers, community organizations, faith-based organizations, labor organizations and legislators will continue to be critically important in bringing justice to Smithfield;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports justice for workers at Smithfield Packing and, in particular, the national and local campaign, in which Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ participates, that is designed to bring worker justice to Smithfield employees and their families;

WE FURTHER RESOLVE, that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members of churches in the United Church of Christ to become informed about working conditions at Smithfield by examining the extensive background at www.ucc.org/justice/smithfield;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon members of churches of the United Church of Christ, having been informed, to advocate for worker justice at Smithfield, specifically to contact the parent company, Smithfield Foods, and request that management in the Smithfield plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, be instructed to stop, and refrain from further, abuse, intimidation and violence against their workers and to provide their workers with the same rights that other Smithfield employees enjoy in union plants: a safe place to work, essential dignity and respect, and the protection of a union contract to encourage a culture of safety and respect in the workplace.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.