

NO. 0517
(SENSE-OF-THE-ASSEMBLY)
SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE LIVING WAGE
ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, a central act of God in the Hebrew Bible is to deliver people from slavery into freedom; and
WHEREAS, Jesus came to preach good news to all, with commitment to and compassion for the poor;
and

WHEREAS, all economic systems are under God's judgment; and

WHEREAS, people working 40 hours a week should be able to provide food, clothing, shelter, and health care for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is morally unacceptable that thirty-five million people living in the United States (including twelve million children) struggle for existence under the federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, national wage policies are moral documents that express the moral values of our country;
and

WHEREAS, private and public economic enterprises are responsible for and need to be held accountable for the social costs of paying living wages as part of doing business; and

WHEREAS, some corporations seek to minimize labor costs, cut benefits, and seek the cheapest global labor pools as a way of maximizing profits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly meeting in Portland, Oregon July 23-27, 2005 resolve to address issues of workers' wages and dignity, Biblically and theologically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) support national movements toward the passage of legislation that guarantees workers sufficient wages to supply adequate food, clothing, shelter, and health care for themselves and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) support movements that address the living wage and cooperate with workers, employers, labor unions, and organizations that are working to affirm workers' dignity