

#WAGE #OUTRAGE

Take Action to Raise the Minimum Wage

A job should keep you out of poverty, not in it. Yet, full-time workers making the federal hourly minimum wage of \$7.25 earn \$15,080 a year — that's \$3,696 below the federal poverty line for a family of three. The tipped minimum wage, which has been a paltry \$2.13 per hour since 1991, is even worse. And we can do something about it!

Unitarian Universalists have an important role to play in this struggle. We can bring our values to the fore, speak up for the dignity and respect of workers, and make sure that this is seen as a moral issue, not just an economic one. Join the movement — whether as an advocate, consumer, business owner, or worker — and take action to raise the minimum wage!

July 24 marks five years without a raise to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 and 23 years without a raise to the tipped minimum wage of \$2.13. That is a moral outrage! We can do something about it: join local actions being planned by workers' rights organizations throughout the country.

What we are trying to achieve

- National level: pass the Minimum Wage Fairness Act (S. 2223 and H.R. 1010), which would raise the hourly minimum wage to \$10.10 in three steps, raise the tipped wage to 70 percent of the hourly wage, and index the minimum wage for cost of living.
- State and municipal level: ensure the passage of state and municipal minimum wage increases of at least \$10.10 and paid sick time ordinances.

Top three things every UU can do!

1. Call your senators at 866-204-2557 and voice your support for raising the minimum wage. See more information at usc.org/minwagebill.
2. Mark July 24 by taking action to raise the minimum wage! Participate in a rally or other activity in your community.
3. Speak up when you eat out. Put "Paying Customer, Paying Attention" stickers on your check when you pay your bill. The restaurant industry is a key opponent of raising the minimum wage — but consumers can help change that!

More Actions to Raise the Wage

Connect with state and local efforts

- Find out if there is a current minimum wage campaign in your city or state — and join it!
- Contact your local faith council or labor coalition to learn how they are supporting low-wage workers in your community.
- Learn how you can best support local workers organizing on a range of issues.
- Explore resources:
 - **UU Statewide Networks:** connect with UUs in your state at uustatenetworks.org.
 - **Raise the Minimum Wage Coalition:** get information about federal and state minimum wage campaigns at raisetheminimumwage.com.
 - **Fight for \$15:** connect with fast-food workers organizing in your community via fightfor15.org.
 - **Jobs with Justice:** join with state and local coalitions of labor, faith, and community groups through jwj.org.

Engage your congregation

- Devote a Sunday service in July to highlight the need to raise the wage.
- Hold a signature Sunday: gather signatures from your congregation for the minimum wage statement (uusc.org/minwage) by Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Bill Schulz.
- Download UUSC's Choose Compassionate Consumption Community Coordinator Tool Kit at uusc.org/ccctoolkit.
- Explore resources:
 - UUSC's Workers' Rights Program: uusc.org/cc
 - UUA's Economic Justice Resources: uua.org/economic

Take part in the democratic process

- Call your legislators in the Senate and the House to tell them that you support raising the minimum wage, including the tipped minimum wage.
- Organize a delegation to visit your members of Congress and urge them to raise the minimum wage.
- Attend public forums where candidates for political office are speaking and ask them if they support a minimum wage increase.
- As always, participate in efforts to get out the vote in your community — the democratic process only works when we all participate!

Spread the word about additional actions

- If you are a restaurant server, share your story in the Living Off Tips campaign organized by the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United at rocunited.org/livingofftips.
- If you are a business owner who supports raising the minimum wage, join thousands of others who feel the same through Business for a Fair Minimum Wage at businessforafairminimumwage.org.

Whatever you plan to do, let UUSC know — e-mail mobilization@uusc.org.

