



September 3, 2017

September 15 & 16**@ St. Paul's , Amityville**

Friday 6:00—9:00 pm and Saturday 8:30 am—4:00 pm



With fewer and fewer people simply walking into our churches, the question becomes how does the church meaningfully connect with people outside its walls?

Reservations are filling up! Learn about this great opportunity and learn how to register at the PSEC Website (psec.org) by clicking on the “Reaching New People” slider at the top of the page.

**SAVE THE DATE****2017 Fall Meeting**

November 18, 2017 - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

@ First UCC, Schuylkill Haven

Thoughts on General Synod 2017 Resolution Calling to Enact Minimum Wage Laws of \$15.00 per Hour

A resolution of witness, submitted by the Connecticut Conference at the General Synod on July 4, 2017, called to enact minimum wage laws of \$15 per hour; for full - and part-time employees. The revised resolution passed: 75 per cent for; 22 per cent against; 2 per cent abstained. The resolution called for:

- Each member church to review compensation for all staff and reach at least \$15 per hour by 2019;
- All UCC settings to support better wages and working conditions and to “participate in community efforts” to do so;
- All UCC settings to advocate among local, state and federal policy makers to: 1. Raise the minimum wage as soon as possible; 2. Move toward living wages; and, 3. Work for the rights and dignity of workers.

Supporting arguments included the biblical and theological mandates to support the widow and the alien living among us, that our God is a God of justice, and God requires us to live based on justice, mercy and humility. Jesus calls us to care for the least of these among us.

Statistical analysis included the observation that in 1938 the minimum wage was 25 cents per hour. Adjusted for inflation that means \$4.25 per hour in today's economy; in 1968 the minimum wage was \$1.50 an hour. In today's economy that means \$10.90 per hour. In 2015, the minimum wage workers live in households below the poverty level (described as an annual income of \$24,250 for a family of four).

Note this resolution is the result of two resolutions entitled “A More Just Economy: Living Wages and Job Creation” and “Enact Minimum Wage Laws of \$15 Per Hour.” The resultant resolution was reviewed during synod by two committee sessions prior to plenary. The initial resolution included references to: Eliminating the \$2.13 per hour tipping wage, addressing international trade and investment agreements, creating jobs by repairing or replacing “crumbling” infrastructure and providing childcare and early childhood education. The tipping wage clause was removed.

Discussions of concern included impact on small businesses, job availability for teens, geographical variances regarding minimum wage and “living wage,” does increasing minimum wage really result in increased economy, international trade matters and job creation. *-Respectfully submitted: Ms. Linda Hammond, Rev. Edward Livingston and Rev. Terri McNamara—2017 General Synod Delegates*