

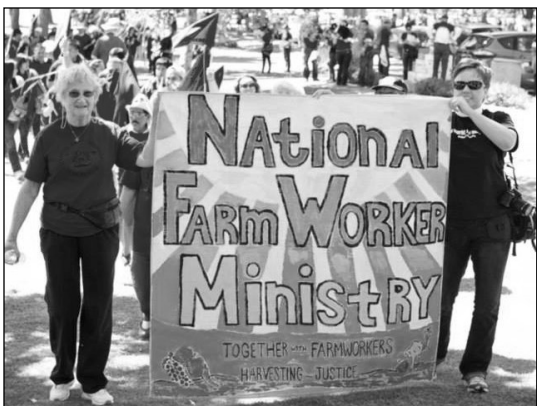
NFWM in Solidarity with Farm Workers



NFWM board, staff and friends meet at the National Chavez Center in La Paz, CA for the 2014 Winter Board Meeting.



NFWM and YAYA in Lakeland, FL for CIW's "Now is the Time" march and rally.



NFWM Board member Suzanne Darweesh and Executive Director Rev. Lindsay Comstock march with the UFW for immigration reform in Bakersfield, CA.



NFWM Board member Olgha Sierra Sandman joins CIW's "Now is the Time" Tour in Columbus, OH.



Pinellas Support Committee of NFWM participates in our "Pack the Theater Selfie Challenge" for the opening weekend of the movie, "Cesar Chavez."



NFWM hosts "Putting our Faith into Action" in Raleigh, NC. (l to r) Christina Stableford, American Income Life, FLOC Pres. Baldemar Velasquez, Duane Adkinson, Pullen Baptist Church, Dave Austin, ERRUF and NFWM ED Rev. Lindsay Comstock.



NFWM and YAYA march with FLOC in Winston-Salem, NC after the 2014 Reynolds American Shareholders' meeting.



NFWM's National Office is now located in Raleigh, North Carolina!

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FLOC Launches “Respect, Recognition, Raise” Campaign to Sign-up 5000 Farm Workers in North Carolina

Respect in the workplace ~ Recognition of our union ~ Fair day's pay for a fair day's work

Background

For almost seven years, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), faith leaders and other community activists have called on Reynolds American Tobacco (RAI) to address human rights abuses in their tobacco supply chain. We have marched, written letters, made calls, held rallies, spoken at Shareholders' meetings and prayed.

In May of 2012, Reynolds finally agreed to meet with FLOC but only through a multi-stakeholder initiative, now called the Farm Labor Practices Group (FLPG). However, the FLPG falls far short of the recommendations by the 2013 Oxfam *State of Fear* report for an industry council which includes “a dispute resolution mechanism allowing farm workers redress for violations of the policies and procedures adopted by the council.” Two years after forming, the FLPG continues to meet without having achieved any real results to benefit tobacco workers.

When farm workers gain self-determination and have a recognized voice in the workplace so that they can freely advocate for themselves and work to correct grievances. Then, and only then, will justice be won.

interns visiting labor camps across the state. They are talking with workers about the importance of being part of a union, FLOC's current campaign for Justice for Tobacco Farmworkers, and getting signatures on union cards. Significant support is being provided by the Organizing Department of the AFL-CIO as well as other national unions.

The *RRR* organizing drive is building on the pressure the tobacco companies are feeling from months of actions from FLOC and its allies. (see page 5.)



NFWM-YAYA is pleased to announce that two YAYA members, Nataly Azcurra (above) and Bianca Salomon completed the AFL-CIO organizer intern training and have joined FLOC in North Carolina. A special thank you to the Joan Preiss Memorial Fund for its support in making this possible.

More Actions Supporting FLOC

Last month, NFWM spearheaded the Religious Leaders for Tobacco Justice Letter to RAI's new President/CEO, Susan Cameron (formerly Susan Ivey) and Board of Directors. The letter calls on Reynolds American to 1) negotiate a memorandum of understanding with FLOC that will guarantee freedom of association on the farms in its supply chain and 2) prohibit growers in their supply chain from retaliating against farm workers for exercising basic workplace rights like signing a union card. The letter, with approximately 500 signatories, was delivered this month.

Additionally, growing out of the British American Tobacco Consultation in London last December, two Labor Party members from the British Parliament, Jim Sheridan and Ian Lavery, visited North Carolina this month to hear from farm workers and see conditions firsthand. Look for updates on this important development on our website and Facebook page.

Also, the NFWM Board will be holding its biannual Board meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina August 14-16. Attendees will hear from workers and organizers about the *RRR* campaign.



FLOC President Baldemar Velasquez and NFWM ED Rev. Lindsay Comstock lead the march through Winston-Salem, NC following the Reynolds American Shareholders' meeting.

Respect, Recognition, Raise

At FLOC's 2013 Constitutional Convention, members unanimously passed a resolution to launch an organizing drive to sign up 5,000 new members in North Carolina during the 2014 harvest season. Currently, about 7,000 farm workers in North Carolina are covered by union contract with FLOC.

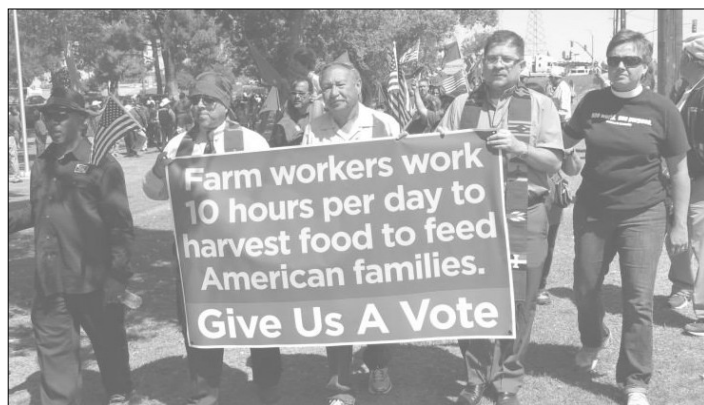
FLOC's *Respect, Recognition, Raise (RRR)* campaign was recently launched with seasoned organizers and summer

Human Rights Watch has issued a devastating report about child labor in U.S. tobacco fields. North Carolina was one of the four states addressed. Visit <http://mm.hrw.org/content/made-usa-child-labor-tobacco> for more information.

Now is the Time for Comprehensive Immigration Reform - It is Way Past Time!

Led by the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, over 1000 farm workers, faith leaders, activists and students marched to Congressman Kevin McCarthy's office on April 27th demanding a vote on immigration reform. With fresh fruits and vegetables in hand, farm workers asked to speak with McCarthy but were met by a locked door.

Rep. McCarthy's office has been the site of numerous actions since the passage of the Senate immigration bill almost a year ago. Formerly House Majority Whip and now Majority Leader, Rep. McCarthy holds national influence. Unfortunately, his door has remained locked to local and national constituents for months.



Current immigration efforts have shifted to Speaker John Boehner and the Obama administration. With the current large influx of unaccompanied minors from Central America crossing the border, the President declared he would take executive action to address the developing humanitarian crisis. Farm worker advocates are asking President Obama to reconsider the deportation priority list and eliminate re-entry as a criminal offense, which significantly impacts farm workers. Check www.nfwm.org for updates on immigration reform efforts and local actions that need your support.

Congress: Hear Our Voices
"Immigration reform is important to me because I don't want my family always working in fear. They are not criminals. They are here to work and help provide food to everyone in this country." — Farmworker



Join the movement of farm worker voices united for immigration reform by tweeting or facebooking your comments using #FWVOICES. Congress needs to hear the voice of farm workers and farm worker advocates. Now is the time for immigration reform—it is way past time!



NFWM Board and staff listen as farm workers talk about the conditions at Gerawan Farms in CA.

Workers Continue Fight for Rights with Gerawan

In late January, at its biannual meeting, the National Farm Worker Ministry Board of Directors met at La Paz with Gerawan Farming Inc. workers who gave first-hand accounts that mirrored California state officials' accusations of gross law breaking by the giant grower with its Prima label. Especially distressing was hearing the Gerawan workers describe how they became victims of illegal retaliation for engaging in union activities protected by California law.

In May CEO Dan Gerawan reached out to NFWM Executive Director Lindsay Comstock as well as other United Farm Workers supporters to express his frustration with state law and his continued intention not to implement the workers' contract issued by a neutral state mediator and the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Conservative calculations by the UFW show that by refusing to implement this contract, Dan Gerawan is depriving his workers of many millions of dollars owed to them in wages and benefits retroactive to July 2013 as well as millions more over the contract's duration.

This week, after negotiating an \$11 hourly pay raise for Gerawan workers, plus a 10% increase for all other crew and cultural employees effective July 1, 2014, UFW National Vice President Armando Elenes further proposed that Gerawan increase the hourly base rate to \$15/hr plus another 15% increase for other crew and cultural workers. The union also wants Gerawan to agree to a 15% increase for all piece rates and urged the company to apply all pay hikes to the many company employees hired through farm labor contractors. Gerawan refuses to apply the wage hikes to labor contractor employees at the company.

In light of Dan Gerawan's continuing refusal to abide by the law, you can support the Gerawan workers calling for implementation of their union contract by telling others about this campaign, including retailers across the nation that carry Prima-brand products. For updates visit www.nfwm.org or www.ufw.org.

Farm workers at dairies in the Pacific Northwest need your support in their campaign with Darigold to end abusive conditions. Visit www.nfwm.org for up-to-date action alerts.

Patriarchy and Publix: Why We Need the Fair Food Program

**By: NFWM Executive Director
Rev. Lindsay C. Comstock**

If you live anywhere near the sunny state of Florida, bet you have heard of a group of tomato pickers who are taking the East Coast by storm.

Formed in the 1990's by a small group of workers who began meeting in a local church to discuss ways to better their living and working conditions, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) now boasts accolades from both the United Nations and the White House. Their Fair Food Program, which ensures better wages and living conditions for tomato pickers in Florida, is transforming farm workers' lives in the small town of Immokalee and making a big splash in the larger workers' rights arena.

On Friday, March 14th, I joined hundreds of other supporters for a 24-hour interfaith prayer vigil calling on Publix Super Markets to join 12 other major corporations, including Wal-mart, by signing onto the Fair Food Program. As part of the vigil, I joined a delegation of eight religious leaders attempting to speak with the manager of the Southgate Publix in Lakeland, Florida about the horrendous conditions workers are facing in the fields.



If you have any doubt as to whether the rights of workers, women or immigrants are still an issue in 2014, I can assure you that the manager of the Southgate Publix in Lakeland is not helping matters. A clean-cut, nicely dressed Caucasian gentleman, the Publix manager wasted no time extending his hand to other Caucasian men

from our delegation. While I and other female clergy had to assertively offer our hand to be recognized, the Publix manager easily laughed off our concerns while being quick to argue with the men. The Publix manager also continuously interrupted Gerardo Reyes of the CIW even after inviting his comments.

Eventually, the Publix manager had us removed from the property by the Lakeland Police Department but not without first pulling out the last unrecognized female from our delegation.



Claire Comiskey of Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida was directed to the center of the parking lot by a Lakeland Police officer, a good 500 feet from the rest of our delegation, where she was chided, not for laws our delegation may or may not have broken, but for alleged "broken promises" the Coalition and its supporters had made with local officials about an attempted visit. After close to 15 minutes of isolated conversation with a male police officer, Claire was released and rejoined our delegation.

The patriarchal intimidation our delegation experienced that Friday at the Southgate Publix in Lakeland is but one reminder of the reality many agricultural workers face everyday in America's fields. While our delegation was protected from serious abuses by the presence of hundreds of onlookers, the majority of farm workers do not share such protections. Many farm workers lack proper grievance policies on the job, do not have proper equipment to protect themselves from pesticide exposure, and many female farm workers have no safe means with which to report sexual harassment or rape in the fields. The Fair Food Program seeks to change all of that for the workers in Immokalee by creating a partnership of social responsibility between invested parties.

I have serious concerns about Publix and their persistent refusal to join the Fair Food Program. I believe Publix executives can easily spare the "one penny more per pound" that the CIW is asking for so tomato pickers can have better living and working conditions. Now, I also have grave concerns about the leadership that Publix chooses to represent its interests to concerned consumers. The disrespect certain members of our delegation experienced that Friday night stings not for me but for the thousands of farm workers who continue to wait, now four years later, for Publix to do the right thing.

**Publix & Wendy's:
Join the Fair Food Program!**

**Sign up on for our e-news alerts by visiting our
website at www.nfwm.org for up-to-date
information on CIW and The Fair Food Program.**



NFWM's Youth & Young Adult Network ...Check out their website www.nwfm-yaya.org for reports on these activities & more!



Seven YAYA members and YAYA Organizer Nico Gumbs traveled to North Carolina for the seventh year to participate with FLOC in the Reynolds Shareholders' meeting actions. They helped lead the march with drumming and chanting.



YAYA has an ongoing relationship with the farm worker community of Fellsmere, FL and the Farmworker Association of Florida. YAYAs regularly travel to Fellsmere to help out with FWA's Campesino Garden .

YAYAs march with CIW for the "Now is the Time" tour in Lakeland, FL. The night before, YAYAs formed a "light brigade" in front of Publix that held an all night vigil in support of Florida tomato pickers.



16 members and supporters of Orlando YAYA took part in NFWM's "Pack the Theatre Selfie Challenge" for the premiere of the "Cesar Chavez" movie in March.



Organizing and leadership trainings to build skills as supporters of the farm worker movement are an important part of YAYA.

... more NFWM support of FLOC

Throughout this past winter and spring, FLOC, NFWM and YAYA, Triangle Friends of Farmworkers (TFF) and other allies carried out many activities in support of tobacco workers in the southeast including participation in the following four corporate Shareholders' meetings.

Pantry Shareholders' Meeting, March 13th in Raleigh, NC

Pantry, Inc, is the parent company of Kangaroo Express. Tobacco products account for 39% of Kangaroo's sales. We once again urged Pantry to communicate to Reynolds their consumers' concerns about conditions in their tobacco supply chain.

British American Tobacco (BAT), April 30th in London, England

BAT represents 42% of Reynolds American stock. FLOC President Velasquez spoke and Rev. Raymond Singh of the United Reformed Church read a letter from NFWM calling on BAT to take responsibility for the dehumanization of farm workers in Reynolds' supply chain.

Philip Morris International (PMI), May 7th in New York, NY

Unlike BAT, PMI is not a RAI shareholder. However, on May 7th Dr. Alvin Jackson, Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in NYC and Assist. Pastor for Outreach Rev. Luis-Alfredo Cartagena Zayas attended the PMI Shareholders' meeting to remind them of the power they hold to address human rights abuses in the tobacco fields.

Reynolds American International (RAI), May 8th in NC

For the seventh year, dozens of supporters, including NFWM Board member Edie Rasell, UCC Justice & Witness Ministries, attended the RAI meeting to express concern with human rights abuses in their supply chain.

Triangle Friends of Farmworkers



Jack Preiss, Jennifer McGovern, Bruce Puckett, Nancy Rosebaugh, and Dave Austin from TFF.

The farm worker support group started by the late Joan Preiss and Duke Divinity students in 1973 has been revived. Triangle Friends of Farmworkers holds monthly meetings as well as monthly rallies at Kangaroo Express. TFF also participates in many other actions in support of FLOC and CIW. Jennifer McGovern is chairing the group with major support from Dave Austin. NFWM is a part of TFF. To sign up on their news/action listserv, email daustin@mindspring.com.

NFWM Making Farm Workers Visible to People of Faith around the Country

By: NFWM Executive Director, Rev. Lindsay C. Comstock

We all know the old adage, "out of sight, out of mind" - it is too often the case when it comes to farm workers. We forget that food does not plant, prune or harvest itself. And too many of us are unaware of the great hardships endured by the estimated two million men, women and children who tend the fields in order to provide for our dinner tables.

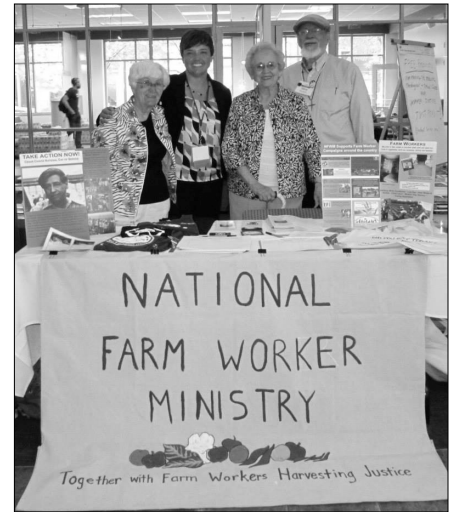
On, Monday, June 23rd I joined hundreds of faith and worker advocates in Chicago for a conference on economic justice. Formally known as the SCUPE Congress on Urban Ministry, the Seminary Consortium of Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE) and Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) combined efforts to host a 4-day conference focused on empowering church and activist leaders to become agents of change within their own communities. National Farm Worker Ministry and our Youth and Young Adult Network served on the Planning Committee and hosted several workshops at the conference to ensure that the economic realities faced by farm workers were made visible.

A highlight of the Congress was the Wednesday afternoon Women's Panel. A time for female community

leaders to share their stories of overcoming inequality and discrimination in order to serve others, the Womens' Panel showcased five women including Elvira Carvajal, an organizer for the Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF). Elvira shared of her family's journey from Mexico to America and spoke eloquently of her work educating women farm workers about the dangerous pesticides that threaten the health of unborn children and pregnant mothers in the fields.

Later that evening, participants were offered the opportunity to sign onto a religious leaders letter supporting the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's campaign with Reynolds American Tobacco. More than 100 signatures were acquired in less than 10 minutes.

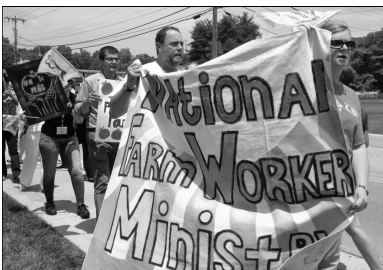
An urban congress in the concrete jungle of Chicago is not the first place you would think people might be shining a light on farm worker rights. Thankfully, hundreds of socially conscious faith leaders who know that fair food means understanding that their fruits and vegetables come from the hard work of farm workers thought it just the right place to raise the issue.



Former Board member Carol Cook, BVM, ED Rev. Lindsay Comstock, and Board members Olgha Sierra Sandman and Gene Boutilier at NFWM's table at the SCUPE Congress.



Elvira Carvajal, Nico Gumbs and Yolanda Gomez at SCUPE Congress.



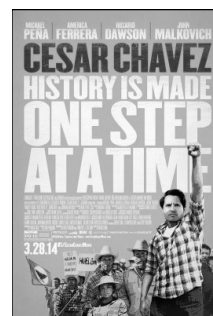
NFWM was present with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America at their Women's Ministry Convention in Chattanooga, TN in June. The convention included a demonstration with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW).



On June 29th, NFWM ED Rev. Lindsay Comstock preached at UUFR. A collection was taken up to benefit NFWM's work with farm workers throughout the country.



UFW supporters gather for a prayer vigil led by NFWM ED Rev. Lindsay Comstock in front of Rep. Kevin McCarthy's office in California.



If you missed seeing the movie, *Cesar Chavez* in theaters last spring - or just want to watch it again - it is available through Netflix and Redbox.

Watch it again, for the first time!

NFWM Member News

NFWM Welcomes the Sisters of the Humility of Mary as our newest Member Organization



We are very pleased to announce that the Sisters of the Humility of Mary have joined NFWM as a Member Organization; Sr. Karen Bernhardt, HM (left) is their representative to our Board. Sr. Karen is not new to NFWM. For many years she was the Director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, also a Member Organization, and has participated in many NFWM Board meetings and supported many farm worker campaigns.

For over 35 years, Sr. Karen has been in ministry to Spanish-speaking immigrants in various places around the country. She is now a member of the HM Leadership Team. Sr. Karen lives in Canton, OH.

What is a Member Organization of NFWM?

Thirty-three national denominations, state and regional religious groups, regional church councils, local support committees and Catholic religious orders make up NFWM's core organizational membership. NFWM's Board is composed of organizational representatives in order to expand the network of farm worker supporters through member constituencies.

A Member Organization covenants to provide an annual financial pledge, to disseminate information about NFWM, promote participation by their constituencies in farm worker support efforts, and appoint a representative to the NFWM Board who will attend at least one biannual Board meeting a year.

The work of NFWM Board members throughout the country is a major component of our program. Visit [www.nfwm.org/About Us](http://www.nfwm.org/About%20Us) for a list of our current Member Organizations.

What is a Supporting Organization?

A Supporting Organization is a faith-based community, whether a religious order, local congregation or regional or national organization, that has an active interest in supporting and advancing the work and resources of NFWM and which commits to doing so but without the formal obligations of being a member organization. The Supporting Organization does not have representation on the Board of Directors but covenants to provide a yearly financial gift, disseminate information and help promote farm worker causes and concerns.



Alliance of Baptists Pass Resolution in Support of FLOC

In May, the Alliance of Baptists, a NFWM Member Organization, held their Annual Gathering in Portland, Maine. On the agenda was a vote to pass a resolution supporting the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's Reynolds Tobacco Campaign. After being presented to the gathered body by NFWM Vice President Sylvia Campbell, the resolution was unanimously approved. An excerpt from the resolution:

"Because of our commitment to God's justice, we -- the Alliance of Baptists -- reaffirm our support and commitment to the ecumenical work for justice for farmworkers by the National Farm Worker Ministry. We will remember this commitment every time we eat as we remember the people who picked and prepared the food we enjoy."

Because of our commitment to God's justice, we—the Alliance of Baptists—join other faith leaders and communities in calling on Reynolds American to work with FLOC to develop a written agreement establishing a process guaranteeing freedom of association and collective bargaining for tobacco farm workers in the Reynolds supply chain. In this way, Reynolds American will affirm the authentic voices of the tobacco farm workers, address common concerns, identify and work toward eliminating abuses in the supply chain, and ultimately improve the living and working conditions of tobacco farm workers."

Furthermore, we pledge to raise our voices in advocacy for farmworkers: for safe and decent working conditions; for fair pay for their labor; for the right to organize and to bargain collectively; and for adequate housing, health care, schooling, and other social services."

Welcome to **Ravenworth Baptist Church** in Annandale, VA, **Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Westminster Presbyterian Church United** in Gainesville, FL, **Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** of Gainesville, FL, and **Southeast Conference of the Mennonite Church** as new **Supporting Organizations** of NFWM.

Are you part of a faith-based organization that is passionate about farm workers?

Consider becoming a supporting organization with NFWM and help us expand our impact on farm worker-led efforts to improve their living and working conditions. If you would like to learn more about being a Supporting Organization, please call the National Office at 919-807-8707.

The Board of Directors and Staff cordially
invite you to join us for

Harvesting Justice Together

A Dinner to Benefit
National Farm Worker Ministry

Saturday, August 16, 2014
6-8:30pm

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church
1801 Hillsborough St. Raleigh, NC 27605
www.nfwm.org



National Farm Worker Ministry is a faith-based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers. NFWM educates, equips and mobilizes member organizations and other faith communities, groups and individuals to support farm worker led efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

CONTACT US TODAY!

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919-807- 8707
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www.nfwm.org

You are invited to our FIRST benefit dinner in North Carolina!

Don't live close? No worries! Be part of the action by sending a donation using the enclosed envelope. On the evening of August 16, 2014 follow our Facebook and Twitter posts to keep up with the action. **Thank you for your support!**

Return Service Requested

National Farm Worker Ministry
P.O. Box 10645
Raleigh, N.C. 27605