



Resolution of the National Farm Worker Ministry

Endorsing the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) Boycott of VUSE E-cigarettes, a product of British American Tobacco and Reynolds American

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance of Baptists
California Church Impact
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United in Illinois
Church Women United of S. California & S. Nevada
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Farm Worker Ministry Northwest (formerly Oregon Farm Worker Ministry)
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
The Loretto Community
NFWM Florida Advisory Group
Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers
Presbyterian Hunger Program PC (USA)
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Shalom North America
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Society of the Sacred Heart
United Church of Christ
Justice and Witness Ministries
The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
The United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Women

WHEREAS, The National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) is a faith-based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers and;

WHEREAS, The NFWM Board and faith-based delegations have over the past decade visited dozens of labor camps and seen first-hand the harsh conditions under which farm workers in the tobacco supply chain work, including sub-standard housing, lack of adequate provisions to ameliorate the harmful effects of pesticide exposure and nicotine poisoning, instances of wage theft and children working in tobacco fields and;

WHEREAS, NFWM is convinced that any mechanism to address farm worker grievances must be rooted in a process which guarantees freedom of association, worker representation and a zero tolerance for retaliation against a worker who files a grievance or joins a union and;

WHEREAS, NFWM has, for ten years, repeatedly communicated with Reynolds American Board of Directors and Executive Management and likewise, since 2010, with British American Tobacco Company, calling on both companies to take responsibility for human rights abuses in their supply chains and enter into negotiations with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee to develop a practical mechanism for addressing worker grievances and;

WHEREAS, After five years of the multi-stakeholder approach, now called the Farm Labor Practice Group, no agreement has been reached that results in substantial improvements in the living and working conditions for tobacco farm workers in the Southeast and;

WHEREAS, In 2017, Reynolds America and British American Tobacco Company merged to create the largest publicly traded tobacco company in the world and;

WHEREAS, NFWM actively supported FLOC's previous successful boycott campaigns and learned from these campaigns that consumer boycotts can be effective means to bring about positive change in the living and working conditions of farm workers;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Farm Worker Ministry Board endorses the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's boycott of VUSE E-cigarettes, a product of British American Tobacco and Reynolds American, as a means of using our economic power to support the farm workers who are struggling for justice;

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the National Farm Worker Ministry commits to inform our twenty-six member organizations and thousands of supporters about the conditions of the farm workers in the British American Tobacco and Reynolds American supply chain and to urge our constituents to publicize and support the boycott of VUSE E-cigarettes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Farm Worker Ministry will communicate its endorsement of the boycott to the officials of British American Tobacco and Reynolds American and request each NFWM Member Organization to also communicate with British American Tobacco and Reynolds American regarding their support for this resolution.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the National Farm Worker Ministry at their meeting, January, 27, 2018



Sylvia Campbell
Board President



Julie Taylor
Executive Director