

Mr. Todd Penegor, CEO, Wendy's
Wendy's Headquarters
1 Dave Thomas Rd Dublin, OH 43017

November 21, 2018

Dear Mr. Penegor:

A delegation of United Methodists traveled to Dublin, OH on November 15 from New York, Florida and Ohio to meet with you. We regret that we were not able to meet with a Wendy's representative, nor to deliver a letter and postcards to your headquarters. We came to share our concerns regarding the farm workers who work for Wendy's suppliers in Florida. We urge Wendy's to follow the lead of other fast food companies by signing a Fair Food Agreement, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. You have received 5000 postcards by mail, signed by United Methodist Women members from across the country. For months our members have gathered in circles and meetings to learn about conditions for Florida farm workers and about Wendy's resistance to signing the deal.

We received correspondence from Liliana Esposito, Wendy's Chief Communications Officer. Wendy's efforts to shift the source of tomatoes first to Mexico and now to greenhouse farms to avoid paying just wages does not address the human rights and labor rights of farm workers. It merely seeks to avoid building just relationships by going elsewhere, while exploitation and lack of workers' voice continues. Evidence of unacceptable working conditions in the fields challenges Wendy's claim that the company "holds all of its suppliers to high standards, and has even more stringent requirements for labor and human rights assurances from its fresh produce suppliers," as you claim.

We came representing United Methodist Women, the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, the National Farm Worker Ministry and the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. Through its *Living Wage for All Campaign*, United Methodist Women joins other faith groups in working to support the rights of those who harvest our food. Our faith commitment compels us to seek decent work and abundant life for all of God's children, including a living wage and dignified working conditions for farm workers.

As people of faith we will continue to mobilize to urge Wendy's to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Long, President of United Methodist Women, West Ohio Conference

Kathy Kuhn, President of United Methodist Women, East Ohio Conference

Judith McRae, President of United Methodist Women, New York Conference

Rosemary Uebel, United Methodist Women member, Florida Conference

Carol Barton, Executive for Community Action, United Methodist Women national office

Kristina DuBois, Church & Society, East Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church

Sister Karen Bernhardt, Congregation of the Humility of Mary and National Farm Worker Ministry

Katherine Dickson, Director of Vocational Discernment & Community Engagement, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Kris LoFrumento, Director of Student Services, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Dean and VP of Academic Affairs, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Dr. Yvonne Zimmerman, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Associate Dean, Methodist Theological School in Ohio



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Dr. Tim VanMeter, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Ecological Initiatives, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

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