

## Raising the Minimum Wage: an issue of Faith



Learn more at [www.RaisingWagesNC.org](http://www.RaisingWagesNC.org)

*“There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American whether he [or she] is a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid, or day laborer.”*

*– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### What We Know

- The minimum wage in NC is \$7.25 an hour (or \$15,080 a year), the same as the federal minimum wage and hasn't been raised since 2009. That's \$1,000 less than the federal poverty level for a family of one adult and one child (below the line of providing for the basic necessities of life)
- Due to inflation, the real value of the current minimum wage is actually lower than in 1968. The \$1.60/hour minimum wage of 1968 would've amounted to at least \$11.60 an hour in 2016, adjusted for inflation.
- We know an estimated 1.3 million people would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour—that's 1/3 of our state's total workforce.

### The Effort to Raise Wages in North Carolina

In an effort to join 29 other states who have raised their state's minimum wage, a coalition of organizations that includes faith, labor, and community groups has come together to raise the state's minimum wage.

Over the last year, the coalition gathered around 200 people from across the state to meet with legislators in Raleigh to support a bill to raise the minimum wage incrementally to \$15/hr. NC became the first state to raise state employees to \$15/hr. this year. The coalition is preparing for the next legislative session in January of 2019 which is the next time this bill can be heard and come up for a vote. **Join us in taking action!**

## What You Can Do

1. Pray for all working people and especially people earning wages inadequate to sustain their families.
2. Sign the petition to the NC legislature at [www.raisingwagesnc.org/take-action](http://www.raisingwagesnc.org/take-action)
3. Make a consumer pledge to support employers paying living wages. For a list of living wage certified businesses visit [justeconomicswnc.org](http://justeconomicswnc.org) or [thelivingwagenetwork.org](http://thelivingwagenetwork.org).
4. Like us on Facebook & share content on social media.
5. Educate yourself on the issue at [www.RaisingWagesNC.org](http://www.RaisingWagesNC.org) and spread the word!
6. Join a Regional Raising Wages Coalition

### Prayer for a Living Wage

*Living God, we confess that we have not fully accepted the challenge of seeking Your justice in the world. We define justice in ways that preserve our own self-interest, forgetting that Your justice may call us to great sacrifice. We pray for working people whose wages are so low that they face terrible choices between paying the rent and feeding their families. God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*We pray that the courageous cries of working people for justice will be heard by their employers, by the community, and by our government. God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*We pray for employers in our city, that they will accept their responsibility to pay their workers enough to live. God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*We pray for companies that abuse the dignity of their workers and refuse to see their employees as brothers and sisters. God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*We pray for all the people of our community, that we will hold our government and businesses accountable for the ways they treat their working people. God of compassion, hear our prayer.*

*Hear now O God the prayers that we lift aloud or in silence to you.*

*By Rev. Rebekah Jordan, Mid-South Interfaith Network for Economic Justice*