

## Raising the Minimum Wage: an issue of Faith



Raising wages to \$15 over 5 years!

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 North Carolina is \$7.25 an hour (or \$15,080 a year), the same as the federal minimum wage.
- That’s \$1,000 less than the federal poverty level for a family of one adult and one child.
- It’s \$20,000 less than what it would take to truly make ends meet, according to the NC Justice Center’s Living Income Standard for a family of one adult one child.
  - Due to inflation, the real value of the current minimum wage is actually lower than in 1968.
  - The \$1.60/hr minimum wage of 1968 would’ve amounted to at least \$11.60 an hour in 2016, adjusted for inflation.

### The Need is Clear:

- An estimated 1.3 million people would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour—that’s a third of our state’s total workforce.
  - The ripple effect of raising the wage floor gives a boost to the hundreds of thousands of working people making just above the minimum wage.
  - Because most people working for low wages are women, increasing the minimum wage would also help close the gender wage gap.

### 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
4. Like us on Facebook
5. Educate yourself on the issue at [www.RaisingWagesNC.org](http://www.RaisingWagesNC.org)
6. Join a Regional Raising Wages Coalition

### Prayer for a Living Wage

*Living God, we acknowledge 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 requires that we focus on the needs of others.*

*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