

Membership

Membership of the Farm worker Ministry Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches is composed of representatives who are officially appointed by their judicatories, Church Women United, organizations and individuals who are interested in farm workers and their concerns. Meetings of the Committee are held on the second Thursday of every other month.

Education/Action Resources

The following materials which illustrate farm worker conditions are available upon request:

- DOCUMENTED STUDIES
- FILMS/VIDEOS
- INFORMATION/ACTION SHEETS
- LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS
- NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
- SPEAKERS
- WORSHIP RESOURCES
- CURRICULUM (for church groups on North Carolina farm workers)

To request additional information, arrange for a program, order materials, offer your service or send a contribution to support the work we are doing, contact:

Chair
Farm worker Ministry Committee
North Carolina Council of Churches
Methodist Bldg., 1307 Glenwood Ave.,
Suite 156
Raleigh, NC 27605
(919) 828-6501
staff: Denise Long, DLong@nccouncilofchurches.org

Farm worker Ministry Committee
North Carolina Council of Churches
Methodist Building, Suite 156
1307 Glenwood Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27605

www.nccouncilofchurches.org



Farm Worker Ministry Committee

**of the North Carolina
Council of Churches**



*“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for
justice, for they shall be satisfied.”
(Matthew 5:6)*

The Farm worker Ministry Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches works to improve conditions of farm workers through **Public Awareness, Advocacy, Service, Support for Organizing,** and **Resolutions of Endorsement.**

Public Awareness:

- participating in and sponsoring discussion groups, work shops and seminars.
- publishing and distributing information, giving testimony, interviews, interpretations and bearing witness.
- holding public forums at NC churches about current farm workers issues.

Advocacy:

- introducing or supporting legislation or programs to improve conditions for farm workers.
- working to change, repeal or oppose legislation or programs that are harmful to farm workers.
- encouraging others to be farm worker advocates.
- working with other advocacy groups that share our goals.

Service:

- encouraging and assisting member churches in the development of their own farm worker ministry programs.

Support for Organizing:

- endorsing collective bargaining rights for farm workers, and consequently endorsing their active participation in the struggle for justice.
- supporting the United Farm Workers (UFW), the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

Resolutions of Endorsement:

- endorsing farm worker-called boycotts including recently resolved campaign on Mt. Olive Picklets (Sept. 2004) and Taco Bell (March 2005).

Facts about Farmworkers in NC

- Total migrant and seasonal farm workers in the state: 100,960 (based on 2000 migrant health study).
- North Carolina ranks fifth in the U.S. in number of migrant and seasonal farm workers.
- 85% of the fruits and vegetables we eat as consumers are handpicked by farm workers.
- Increasing farm workers' wages by 50% would cost the consumer less than \$5 per year for fruits and vegetables.
- Over half of all farm workers earn less than \$7,500 per year.
- In Sept 2004, more than 8,500 H2A farm workers in NC won a historic victory by being the first in the country to be covered by a union contract with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Why Is Supporting Farmworkers So Important?

As people of faith, we believe all people deserve the basic rights of fair housing, dignity, respect on the job and the right to organize.

Farm workers in North Carolina labor in the tobacco fields, prepare fruits and vegetables for market and harvest Christmas trees in the winter. Each farm worker contributes over \$12,000 to our state's agricultural economy annually. They work long hours under dangerous conditions and still do not earn enough to lift their families out of poverty. They suffer from high rates of illnesses related to unsafe working conditions and substandard housing. They are exposed to dangerous pesticides and work without drinking water or bathrooms in the fields.

Currently, farm workers have little political or economic influence over the policies that affect their lives. For this reason we continue to support them in their struggle for economic and social equality.

The Farm Worker Ministry Committee works with and supports other advocacy groups and organizations concerned with improving the lives of farm workers, for more information call us at (919) 828-6501 or go to www.nccouncilofchurches.org. These include:

Eno River U U Fellowship (ERUUF) Farm worker Action Team
Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
Church Women United
Episcopal Farmworker Ministry
Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)
Legal Aid of North Carolina, Farmworker Unit
National Farm Worker Ministry
NC Council of Churches and its member bodies
NCCC Housing Development Corporation
NC Farmworkers Project
NC Justice & Community Development Center
Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF)
Farmworker Advocacy Network (FAN)
Triangle Friends of the United Farmworkers

and a number of concerned individuals, congregations and church denominations that support farm workers.

