

**IN RECOGNITION OF TWENTY YEARS OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MINISTRY WITH FARM WORKERS  
A Resolution approved by General Synod XIX of the United Church of Christ (1993)**

WHEREAS, Jesus said that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for him (Mt. 25);

WHEREAS, farm workers are among the lowest-paid members of the workforce, although they perform demanding and dangerous work;

WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting twenty years ago, also in St. Louis, Missouri, sent 95 delegates and visitors to Coachella, California, in solidarity with the organizing efforts of the United Farm Workers of America;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has maintained its commitment to farm worker organizing efforts, passing resolutions in support of migrant workers in 1961, the boycott of Chiquita bananas and non-union iceberg lettuce in 1979, and the boycott of California table grapes in 1985;

WHEREAS, the work of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) in California and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in the Midwest have demonstrated the effectiveness of organizing efforts in improving working and living conditions for farm workers;

WHEREAS, through successful three-way negotiations among farm workers, family farmers, and processing companies, FLOC has obtained employee benefits such as Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, and Worker's Compensation for farm workers, without increasing the burden on family farmers in Ohio and Michigan;

WHEREAS, the farmers have acknowledged the benefit of their participation in this three-way bargaining and have expressed the need to extend this same relationship to other states such as North Carolina, Florida, and Texas;

WHEREAS, new farm worker organizing efforts have emerged across the country, including the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFW-WS), the Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) in Oregon, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in North Carolina and the Farmworker Association of Central Florida (FACF) in Florida;

WHEREAS, the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFW-WS) have called for a boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia Crest wines to obtain union recognition and contracts for wine grape workers;

WHEREAS, the Pineros y Campesinos del Noroeste (PCUN) have called for a boycott of FLAV-R-PAC frozen foods, Santiam canned vegetables, and Steinfeld's pickles in order to obtain union recognition and a contract at Kraemer Farms in Oregon;

WHEREAS, the Farm Worker Association of Central Florida has called for support of post-Hurricane Andrew community organizing efforts among farm workers in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the National Farm Worker Ministry, of which the United Church of Christ is an active member, has responded supportively to these emerging organizing efforts by endorsing these initiatives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nineteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commemorates 20 years of ministry with farm workers, celebrates the gains that have been made and reaffirms its commitment to support justice and self-determination for farm workers through continued education about farm worker issues, advocacy and letter-writing, support for the boycotts of Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia Crest wines, FLAV-R-PAC frozen foods, Santiam canned vegetables, Steinfeld's pickles and California table grapes and affirms continued financial support for the National Farm Worker Ministry and farm worker organizing initiatives.

*Subject to the availability of funds.*