

To: Members of the New York State Wage Board

As clergy and faith leaders from throughout New York State, we urge you to end the immoral practice of multi-billion dollar fast food companies paying poverty wages to the workers of our state. Having heard the stories and witnessed the struggles of our brothers and sisters trying to get by on less than \$9 an hour, we are compelled to add our voices to their call for a minimum wage of \$15.

In our ministries across the state, we are confronted with the realities of growing poverty and inequality. It affects all of us, whether we serve upstate or downstate, in rural, urban, or suburban communities. On a daily basis we encounter neighbors unable to provide adequate food, housing and healthcare for themselves and their families.

At the heart of this crisis is a simple contradiction: too many of the available jobs in our communities do not pay enough to keep people out of poverty. The fast-food industry – which is among the fastest growing in our economy – is a prime example. Two-thirds of fast food workers are the primary wage-earners in their families. But in New York, the average fast food income of less than \$16,000 per year doesn't even approach the \$30,000 to \$55,000 (depending on county), which a family of two needs to be self-sufficient.¹

This is fundamentally a moral problem. We can no longer allow deep-pocketed employers in our state to condemn much of the workforce to lives of poverty. The fast-food industry can afford to pay its employees \$15 an hour; our communities cannot afford for them to be paid any less.

This Wage Board presents a historic opportunity to change the lives of 165,000 fast food workers in our state and rejuvenate our economy. We call on you to seize this moment and raise the minimum wage in the fast food industry to \$15 an hour.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

¹ <http://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/pdfs/5-20-statistics.pdf>

Bishop	Howard	Hubbard	Co-chair	Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State	12210
Pastor	Peter	Clifford	Pastor	St. John of Rochester	14450
Imam	Khalil	Abdulkhabir	Imam	Islamic Center of CNY	1321
Sister	Joan	Agro	Sister	Sisters of St. Dominic	10962
	Onleilove	Alston	Executive Director	PICO Faith in NY	10031
Rev.	Earl	Arnold		Pebble Hill Presbyterian	13057
	Katherine	Arseneau	Parish Leader		12180
Rev.	Dominique	Atchison		Judson Memorial Church	10451
Rev.	Jennifer	Aull		Greenpoint Reformed Church	11222
Deacon	Walter	Ayres	Director	Catholic Charities' Commission on Peace and Justice	12203
Pastor	Regina	Baird Haag	Pastor	Adirondack Friends Meeting	12803
The Rev.	Christopher	Ballard		Trinity-St. John's Episcopal Church	11557
Pastor	Arthur	Barnes	Senior Pastor	Abundant Life Transformation Seventh Day Sanctified Church	10027
Rev.	Sara	Baron	Pastor	First United Methodist Church of Schenectady	12308
Sister	Mary	Bookman			14624
Rev. Dr.	Linda	Brebner		PCUSA	14620
Rev.	Emily	Brown		Broadway UCC	10025
Rev.	Yolanda	Brown	CEO	Imani's Quest Ministries	10029
Rev.	Micah	Bucey	Associate Minister	Judson Memorial Church	10012
Sister	Teresa	Byrne		Roman Catholic	12953
Rev. Dr.	James	Campbell		Broadway UCC	10025
Pastor	Brad	Canning	Pastor	Church! of Park Slope	11215
Sister	Meg	Canty	Sister	Rscj	12203
Rev.	Nebraska	Carter		Living Water Church of God in Christ	13210
Sister	Sr. Ana	Causa,SA	Sister	Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement	10573
Rev.	Mark	Chaffin		Baptist Health System	12305
	Clancy	Cherry	Ruling Elder/Clerk of Session	First Presbyterian Church Albany	12203
Sr.	Theresa	Clarizio		Franciscan Sister of the Atonement	10524
Rev.	Joe	Cleveland	Minister	Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs	12866
Deacon	William	Coffey	Deacon	Diocese of Rochester	14502
Doctor	Honora	Corr	Doctor	Sisters of St. Joseph	11717
Pastor	Dan	Corretore	Pastor	North Rose UMC	14516

Sister	Mary	Curtin		Sisters of St. Joseph	13035
Rev.	Sandy	Damhof	Pastor	Journey United Church of Christ	12206
Rev.	Robert	Dean	Pastor	Maine Federated Church	13802
Rector	John	Denaro	Rector	St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church	11201
Pastoral	Grace R.	Diaz, snjm	Pastoral Associate	Our lady of the Americas	12206
	Carmen	Dixon	Organizer	Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies	10004
Rev.	Kathy	Donley	Rev.	Emmanuel Baptist Church	12211
Rev.	Gary	Doupe		Upper NY Annual Conference -UMC	13733
	Mary	Doyle	Pastoral Associate	Christ the King R.C. Church	11434
Sister	Kathleen	Eagan		Sisters of St. Joseph	12202
Sister	Kathleen	Eiffe	Province Leadership Team	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Albany Province	12110
Rev.	Donna	Elia	Executive Director	Troy Area United Ministries	12309
	Becky	Elwell	President	The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester	14606
Rev.	Joseph	Falletta		Retired, Diocese of Albany, NY	12184
Pastor	Valerie	Faust	Lead Pastor	Living Word Tabernacle	12203
Sister	Judy	Fay	Parish Social Ministry Coordinator	St. Raphael Roman Catholic Church, East Meadow, NY	11554
Rabbi	Michael	Feinberg		Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition	10025
Rabbi	Brian	Fink		JCC in Manhattan	10023
Rev	Sue	Forsyth		S Livonia UCC	14618
	S T	Franklin	DMin	NYCCT	10310
	Ben	Frisbie	Co-chair	Greater Binghamton Labor Religion Coalition	13732
Reverend	Dan	Fullerton		Hudson River Presbytery	10562
Rector	Dahn	Gandell	Rector	Church of the Ascension	14450
Rev.	Ron	Garner	Pastor	Memorial Congregational Church	11793
Rev.	Richard	Gilbert	President	Interfaith Impact of New York State	14607
Sister	Doreen	Glynn	Justice Coordinator	Justice Committee of Albany Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	12110
Rabbi	Laura	Gold			10025
Sister	Eileen	Good			10021
Sister	Sharon	Goodremote		Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph	14075
Rev.	Paula	Gravelle	Executive Director	New York State Council of Churches	12110
Rabbi	Irving	Greenberg			10471
Rev,	David	Gregory	Pastor	Spirit of Peace UCC	12449

Rabbi	David	Ingber	Rabbi and Founder	Romemu Congregation	10024
Rev.	Tomi	Jacobs-Ziobro	Pastor	First Congregational UCC Fairport	14450
Rev.	Debra	Jameson	Executive Director	FOCUS Churches of Albany	12210
Rev.	Julie	Johnson Staples	Member, Board of Directors	National Association of Congregational Christian Churches	11232
	Kathryn	Jones Calone	Parish Associate for Mission	Setauket Presbyterian Church	11766
Rev.	Kimberleigh	Jordan	Member	The Riverside Church	10027
Sr.	Kathleen	Kanet	Religious Sister	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary	10128
Rev.	Ann	Kansfield	Rev.	Greenpoint Reformed Church	11222
Rev.	Paul	Kelly	rev.	catholic	12986
	Joan	Klimski	Director of Faith Formation	Incarnation,queens village	11530
	Peter	Knoblock	Co-chair Pre-K expansion Task	Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse	13224
Pastor	Bob	Kolvik-Campbell	Pastor	Christ Church UMC Sherrill, NY	13461
Sister	Janet	Korn		Sisters of Mercy	14618
The Rev	Margaret	Kornfeld		ABC	94803
Rev.	Darcey	Laine		Unitarian Universalist	14850
Reverenc	Rebecca	Laird	Pastor	Cicero United Methodist Church	
Pastor	Mary	Larson	Pastor	Mt. Sinai Congregational UCC	11789
Rev.	Kirk	Laubenstein	Executive Director	Coalition for Economic Justice	14203
Rabbi	Alex	Lazarus-Klein	Rabbi	Congregation Shir Shalom	14226
Reverenc	Alison	Leitzel	Pastor	First Lutheran Church	12208
Rev.	Melissa	Lemons		ELCA	21234
Sister	Sister	Leontine		Religious of the Sacred Hert	12110
The Rev.	Glenn	Leupold	Pastor	First Presbyterian Church of Albany, New Yor	12054
Pastor	Robert	Loesch	Pastor	Zion's UCC Sand Lake	12153
Reverenc	John R.	Long	Reverend	First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo. NY	14201
	Mayra	Lopez	Associate Professor	Nyack College	10035
Rev.	DeeAnne	Lowman	Pastor	Lark Street TOGETHER (UMC)	12306
the Rev.	Alexandra	Lusak		Teaching Elder, PC (USA)	12180
reverend	Roger	Mapes	reverend	mighty companions ministries	11209
Rabbi	Marc	Margolius	Rabbi	West End Synagogue	10023
	Eileen	McCann	Vice President/Treasurer	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	
	Francis	McGarry	Call To Action	St Vincents RC Parish	12209

Rev.	Kevin	McKenna		Cathedral Community	14615
	Emily	McNeill	Lead Organizer	Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State	12110
Rev. Dr.	John W.	McNeill	Senior Pastor	St. Paul's United Methodist Church	14850
Rev	Joseph	Medlin		UCC	11693
Dr.	Marvin	Mich	Director of Advocacy	Catholic Family Center	14620
Rev.	Stacey	Midge	Associate Pastor	First Reformed of Schenectady	12308
	Ted	Miller	Presbyterian pastor	Westminster Presbyterian Church	12601
	Mary	Mohan	Mercy Associate	Roman Catholic Mary Mohan	14609
Rev.	Heather	Moody	Pastor	First Congregational UCC Poughkeepsie	12601
	MARY	MOORE	Assistant Co-ordinator	Sisters of Charity	11946
Rabbi	Linda	Motzkin	Rabbi	Temple Sinai	12831
The Rev.	Brooke	Newell	Director of Social Witness	NY State Council of Churches	12941
	Sara	Niccoli	Director	Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State	12110
Rabbi	Dan	Ornstein	Rabbi	Congregation Ohav Shalom	12203
Pastor	James	Osei-Kofi	Associate Pastor	Bethesda Healing Center	11236
	Emily	Otto	Director of Christian Education	Presbyterian New England Congregational Church	12047
Rev.	Jeanine	Owens		Church of the Abiding Presence	10472
Pastor	John	Paarlberg	Pastor	First Church in Albany	12211
Rev.	Eugene	Palmore		The Riverside Church	10032
Pastor	Edward	Palumbos	Pastor	Church of the Assumption	14450
Rev.	Andrew	Paton		St. Peter	12165
Sister	Clare	Pelkey		Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	12110
Rabbi	Andrew	Pepperstone	Rabbi	Congregation Beth Sholom Chevra Shas	13210
	Sean	Peters	Member, Province Leadership	Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet	12180
The Rev.	Peter	Peters		St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church	14610
Rev.	Michael	Plank		First Presbyterian Church	12839
	David	Powell	director of relig.education	roman catholic	11385
Pastor	Rebecca	Putman	Pastor	Northville United Presbyterian Church	12010
Rev.	Heather	Ramsey Mabrouk	Pastor	United Church of Christ	14075
Rev.	Patricia	Raup		Journey United Church of Christ	12208
Rev.	Konrad	Raup		Journey United Church of Christ	12208
Sister	Jane M.	Reilly		Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood NY	11717

Rev.	Abigail	Norton-Levering	Synod Ministries Coordinator	Regional Synod of Albany (Reformed Church in America)	12309
Rev.	Carl	Richter	Pastor	Webster United Church of Christ	14580
Rev.	Frances	Rosenau	Associate Pastor	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY	12210
Rabbi	Jonathan	Rubenstein	Rabbi	Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs	12831
Rev.	Steve	Ruelke		Ecclesia Ministries of Newburgh	12550
Rev. Dr.	Aline	Russell	Pastor	Stillwater United Church	12170
Sister	Christelle	Sawicki	Justice & Peace Coordinator	Felician Sisters of North America	14211
Rev.	Donna	Schaper	Senior Minister	Judson Memorial Church	10012
	Jordan	Scruggs	Director of Outreach and Local Ministries	Saint James United Methodist Church	12401
Rev. Dr.	Patricia	Sealy	Pastor	Mott Haven Reformed Church	11590
	Rima	Segal	Clerk of Peace & Social Action	Rochester NY Friends Meeting	14620
The Rev	Lynne	Sharp		St James	14840
Rev.	Marian	Shearer		United Church of Christ	12019
Pastor	Timothy	Sherman	Pastor	Fresh Anointing Ministries	12180
Rev.	Peter	Shidemantle		Pebble Hill Presbyterian	13210
Rev.	Merle	Showers		United Methodist Church	14215
	Daniel	Sieradski	Founder	Occupy Judaism	13214
Sister	Margaret	Sikora		Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement	10524
Rev.	Patricia	Simmons		Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse	13210
Pastor	Steven	Smith	Pastor	Newtonville United Methodist Church	12110
	Heather	Smith	Peace with Justice Coordinator	Upper NY United Methodist Church	12110
	Robb	Smith	Lay Community Minister	Interfaith Impact of NYS	12198
	Mary	Smith	Communications Chair	Church Women United in NYS	14618
	Angela	Warner	Director of Social Witness	Church of St. Vincent de Paul	12110
Rabbi	Abby	Sosland	Rabbi	Solomon Schechter Westchester	10024
Pastor	Sandra	spaulding	Pastor	Bottskill Baptist Church	12809
The Rev'	Douglas	Spencer		Retired	14549
Rev.	William	Spilly		St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Hamlin, NY	14464
Rev.	James	Sprenger		1st United Methodist Church Schenectady, NY	12302
Rev.	Randolph	Stackhouse		Antioch MBC	13210
Pastor	Rhoda	Starzyk	Pastor	Stanfordville United Church of Christ	12581
Rev.	CB	Stewart	Minister	Greenpoint Reformed Church	11222

Pastor	Katie Jo	Suddaby	Senior Pastor	Baptist Temple	14609
Father	Peter	Sullivan		Roman Catholic	12203
	Barry	Swan	Madrikh	Beth Haskalah	14618
Sister	Diane	Swanson		Religious Sister of Mercy	14220
Rev.	Martha	Swords-Horrell		Upper New York Conference UMC	12180
Minister/	Stanley	Talbert		Union Theological Seminary	11234
Rev. Dr.	Amaury	Tañón-Santos		Synod of the Northeast (PC, USA)	13057
Rev.	Marie	Tatro		St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church	11225
Fr.	Tim	Taughner		St. Francis of Assisi	13901
Rev. Dr.	Liz	Theoharis	Co-director	Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union	10027
Reverend	Adriene	Thorne		Middle Collegiate Church	10003
Rev.	Barbara	Toll	Pastor	Community Congregational Clinton Heights	12009
Rev.	Corey	Turnpenny		Whitney Point UMC	13862
Fr.	Scott	VanDerveer		St. Mary's Church, Oneonta, NY	13820
Rev.	Noel	Vanek		Community Church of the Pelhams UCC	10803
Rev.	John	Vaughn		Auburn Seminary	10115
Rev.	Jean	Wahlstrom		May Memorial	13210
	Diana	Weaving	social justice chair	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington	11743
Deacon	Donald	Weigel		Immaculate Conception, East Aurora	14127
	Colleen	Wessel-McCoy	Information and Analysis Coord	Kairos Center at Union Theological Seminary	11211
Sister	Nancy	Whitley		Sisters of Mercy	14610
Reverend	Andrew	Wilkes		Drum Major Institute	10019
Rev. Dr.	Marsha	Williams		New York Conference United Church of Christ	12553
Pastor	Craig	Wilson	Pastor	Central Square Community Church	13039
Rev. Dr.	Rev. Dr. Yvette	Wilson	Executive Pastor	Abundant Life Transformation Seventh Day Sanctified Church	10027
Rabbi	Rachel	Zerin	Rabbi	Jewish theological seminary	10040
Rev.	Frederick	Davie	Executive Vice President	Union Theological Seminary	10027
	Karena	Gore	Director	Union Forum, Union Theological Seminary	10027
	Foster	Pinkney		Riverside Church/Union Theological Seminary	10027
Rev.	Vanessa	Cardinale		Trinity Lutheran Church	11209
	Juliana	Federoff	Executive, Global Ministries of	Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection	10025
Rev.	Thia	Reggio	Pastor	Astoria First Presbyterian	11105

Rev.	Jose	Humphreys	Pastor	Metro Hope Church	10035
Rector	Mary Ann	Brody	Rector	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	14618
Rev.	Jennifer	Crumpton		Park Ave. Christian Church	10017
Elder	McKinley	Johnson	Senior Pastor	St. John's Church of God in Christ	12202
Rev.	Larissa	Romero		Scarsdale Congregational Church	10027
Rev.	George	Schmidt		Park Ave. Christian Church	10027
	Mackenzie	Reynolds	Rabbinical Student	Reconstructionist Rabbinical College	11218
	Joseph	Paparone	Advocacy Coordinator	FOCUS Churches of Albany	12110
	Benjamin	Perry	Seminarian	Presbyterian Church (USA)	11226
Rev.	Jorge	Domingues		Methodist	10033