

Sample petition form

Petition to Set the Minimum Wage at \$15/hour

Dear Governor Dannel Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman; Senators (list relevant state senators here); and Representatives (list relevant state representatives here)

We the undersigned members and friends of the following churches:

- **X Congregational Church and**
- **Y Congregational Church**

do hereby petition you to support setting the minimum wage for Connecticut at \$15 per hour beginning in 2019.

Background. At its 2016 Annual Meeting, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) adopted a resolution calling for a minimum wage in CT of \$15 per hour beginning in 2019. Our faith communities are inspired by recent actions in California and New York and in several cities and municipalities in across America setting the minimum wage at \$15 per hour. Massachusetts also has a \$15 per hour wage for many of its low wage health care and food service workers.

The current minimum wage in CT of \$10.10 per hour is several thousand dollars below the federal poverty level guidelines for a family of four.

Some businesses have already found that they benefit from increased minimum wages. Those businesses have lower employee turnover, attract better-qualified job applicants, and have better worker productivity. Recent increases in the minimum wage at IKEA and Wal-Mart have been so successful that those businesses soon increased the wages again. The Aetna in Hartford has set the minimum wage at \$16. CT UCC churches have committed to move to a wage of at least \$15 per hour for all their employees by 2019. Some churches have already successfully established a \$15 per hour minimum wage for their full and part time staff.

A higher minimum wage also has the happy effect of stimulating state economic activity – nearly all of the increased wages for a low-wage worker will be spent, not saved, helping stimulate more economic activity for CT businesses.

A \$15/hour minimum wage will be good not only for the affected employees and residents of the towns and cities you represent, but also for the whole state of Connecticut. For these reasons, we the undersigned urge you to enact a \$15/hour minimum wage for Connecticut beginning 2019.

\$15 per Hour Wage Petition Signatures

Sign name

Print name

Print church name

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