

1 **4. RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF THE**
2 **COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORK-**
3 **ERS BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL**

4 Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Thir-
5 teen, Mr. Teamus L. Newberne (ILL) to present
6 the work of the Committee. Mr. Newberne noted
7 the following adjustments to the text:
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10 The following paragraph of the first “Be it Re-
11 solved” paragraph, had been modified from its
12 original version, and should now read:

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14 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
15 third General Synod calls upon the United Church
16 of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell
17 outlets and products until such time as Taco Bell
18 meets with representatives of the Coalition of
19 Immokalee Workers and with representatives of the
20 SixL’s company and other members of the Florida
21 tomato industry to effect substantive action to im-
22 prove the wages and working conditions of the farm
23 workers who pick the tomatoes that go into Taco
24 Bell products; and,

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26 The following paragraph was added to the resolu-
27 tion as the final “Be it Resolved”:

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29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
30 Third General Synod calls on the Justice and Wit-
31 ness Ministries to report to the Twenty-Fourth Gen-
32 eral Synod on the results of this action (and in the
33 interim to Executive Council), and to notify the
34 members and churches via regular communications
35 of the progress of the boycott.

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37 Mr. Newberne yielded time to Ms. Roberta Perry,
38 with a request to grant voice. Following extensive
39 discussion, Moderator Taylor then called for the
40 vote.

41
42 01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
43 Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Sup-
44 port of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Boy-
45 cott of Taco Bell.”

46
47 **IN SUPPORT OF THE COALITION OF**
48 **IMMOKALEE WORKERS BOYCOTT OF**
49 **TACO BELL**

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51 **WHEREAS**, the United Church of Christ has a long
52 history of support for farm workers in their quest
53 for justice and dignity, including support for past
54 boycotts of lettuce, table grapes, and Campbell’s
55 products, as well as the current boycott of Mt. Ol-
56 ive Pickle Company products;

57
58 **WHEREAS**, the Immokalee, Florida based SixL’s
59 company, one of the biggest tomato producers in
the United States, continues to pay the industry’s
lowest piece rate to its pickers, the same piece rate

it paid in 1978 (40 cents for every 32-pound of toma-
toes picked);

WHEREAS, SixL’s has refused to meet with farm
worker representatives to discuss issues of justice and
dignity;

WHEREAS, the SixL’s company contracts with Taco
Bell to provide a year-round supply of tomatoes;

WHEREAS, given the sheer volume of Immokalee
tomatoes it buys to supply its worldwide operations,
and given its size and economic strength, Taco Bell
has power to help bring about more modern and more
equitable labor relations in Immokalee’s tomato fields
but has refused to meet with farm worker representa-
tives such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to
discuss justice for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2001, the Coalition of
Immokalee Workers, believing that the large corpora-
tions that buy Florida tomatoes must step up to their
responsibility by demanding, and obtaining changes
in the shameful “sweatshop” pay and working condi-
tions suffered by the men and women who pick their
tomatoes, declared a national boycott of Taco Bell;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod calls upon the United Church of
Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell outlets
and products until such time as Taco Bell meets with
representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Work-
ers and with representatives of the SixL’s company and
other members of the Florida tomato industry to effect
substantive action to improve the wages and working
conditions of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes
that go into Taco Bell products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third
General Synod calls upon members of the United
Church of Christ to express their concern for farm
worker justice in letters and calls to Emil J. Brolick,
President and Chief Concept Officer, Taco Bell Corp.,
17901 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92614-6221 (tel. 949-
863-4500); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third
General Synod calls on the Justice and Witness Minis-
tries to report to the Twenty-Fourth General Synod on
the results of this action (and in the interim to the Ex-
ecutive Council), and to notify the members and
churches via regular United Church of Christ commu-
nications of the progress of the boycott.

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51 **5. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGE-**
52 **MENTS COMMITTEE**

53 Moderator Rivera called for recognition of the mem-
54 bers of the Local Arrangements Committee.

55 Don Manworren recognized Tim Murtaugh from the
56 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and gave affir-