

Justice and Advocacy Committee • Lehigh County Conference of Churches

CONTACT

Robert A. Lewis
532 Allen Street
Allentown, PA 18102
610-351-7791
edinucc@yahoo.com

FOR RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON JUSTICE IN THE WORKPLACE

People of faith are concerned about the hereafter. We also are concerned about the here and now. People of faith are concerned about individual persons. We also are concerned about communities and societies. People of faith are concerned about spiritual and ethical issues. We also are concerned about political and economic issues. One present-day teacher of the faith speaks about “God’s unconditional love for each and for all, and God’s unremitting call for justice for each and for all.” For people of faith, political and economic issues are also spiritual and ethical issues.

Many concerns come together as we gather here today. We are here because we are concerned about dignity and justice for all people, and especially about dignity and justice in the workplace. One way of granting such dignity and justice is for workers to have the right to organize in order to improve their working conditions. As working conditions improve, workers can be more focused and more productive at work and more fulfilled in other areas of their lives. As people of faith, we strongly support the right to organize. We see that as a justice issue. We also know that adverse working conditions can have an adverse affect on people’s emotional and physical health. Therefore, the Justice and Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches calls for management, labor, and all other interested parties to follow the best practices of justice, fairness, dignity, and respect.

As we issue this call, we recognize that in today’s business climate many political and economic realities govern or limit what corporations believe they can and should do in order to be competitive and profitable. In line with that, we want employers to succeed and to continue providing employment opportunities. At the same time, we also maintain that there are spiritual and ethical concerns that, when honored, greatly enhance the lives of individuals, corporations, communities, and societies.

As people of faith, our concerns and our actions are based on God’s love for each and for all, and God’s call for justice for each and for all. Those are not separate articles of faith. They are two sides of one and the same coin. It has been said that “Justice is what love looks like in public.” That’s what we’re hoping to see more of

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The views expressed in this statement are not necessarily those of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches.