

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

United Church of Christ members from five different churches, two from Asylum Hill, recently gathered over 400 signatures to petition the Connecticut legislature to increase the minimum wage to \$15.00/ hr. Led by David Biklen, a member of Immanuel Congregational Church, Jim Boucher and Rev. Bill Warner-Prouthy visited the office of the Governor and Lieutenant



Governor to discuss the issue with senior staff before presenting them with the petitions. They also left copies with more than 15 members of the legislature, in the hopes of getting this considered during this year's session.

Connecticut has already increased their minimum recently to \$10.10/hr., but both New York and Massachusetts have already gone to \$15.00, and many individual employers, large and small are moving forward to make the change ahead of any legislation.

For many residents here in Asylum Hill, this could make a real difference. \$15.00/hr. is thought by many to be the amount necessary to allow a small family to survive. It can permit a less stressful lifestyle, including proper nutrition, healthcare and quality time with family that can make employees more effective at their work and less inclined to miss days or quit.

Of course for some small businesses that are currently struggling just to get by, this may seem like an impossible challenge, so how the legislation is crafted will be very important. But if done well it could improve the economy of Connecticut while reducing the costs of many of the social support programs both for the State and the non-profit sector. For more information, or to get involved contact David Biklen at Biklen@sbcglobal.net or 860-989-5712