



National Farm Worker Ministry

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance of Baptists
California Church Impact
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Church of the Brethren
Church Women United in Illinois
Church Women United of
S. California & S. Nevada
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Disciples of Christ
Episcopal Church Migrant Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Division for Church in Society
Franciscan Friars,
Province of Santa Barbara
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
The Loretto Community
National Federation of Priests' Councils
NFWM Florida Advisory Group
North Carolina Council of Churches
Farm Worker Ministry Committee
Orange County Interfaith Committee
to Aid Farm Workers
Oregon Farm Worker Ministry
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Pinellas Support Committee
of The NFWM
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Sarasota-Manatee Farm Worker
Support Committee
School Sisters of Notre Dame,
Shalom North America
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron, Ohio
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Society of the Sacred Heart
Southern California Ecumenical Council
Unitarian Universalist Migrant Ministry
United Church of Christ
Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ Council for
Hispanic Ministry
United Methodist Church General Board
Of Church and Society
United Methodist Church General Board
of Global Ministries, Mission C & R
United Methodist Church General Board
of Global Ministries, Women's Division
U. S. Catholic Conference MRS Office for
the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Refugees
Migrant Ministry
Washington Association of Churches
Wisconsin Council of Churches,
Migrant Ministry Committee

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The National Farm Worker Ministry urges action on AgJobs following the reintroduction of the historic bill on 2/10/05.

On Thursday, February 10, 2005, United Farm Workers President Arturo Rodriguez joined grower leaders and principal AgJobs authors U.S. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Reps. Chris Cannon (R-Utah) and Howard Berman (D-Calif.) at a Washington, D.C. news conference to announce the reintroduction of legislation allowing immigrant farm workers to earn the legal right to permanently stay in this country by continuing to work in agriculture. Negotiated over a four-year period by the UFW and the agricultural industry, AgJobs garnered 63 co-sponsors in the U.S. Senate last year and endorsements from more than 400 organizations, including business, labor, religious, Latino and immigrant rights groups.

In his statement at the press conference, Mr. Rodriguez said, "The need is great for Congress and President Bush to enact the AgJobs bill this year. We need to end the fear and help improve the lives of the immigrant farm workers whose sweat and sacrifice bring the rich bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables to our tables. They do the hardest, most difficult jobs other workers won't do, pay taxes but enjoy few, if any, benefits while performing some of the most important work in our nation—feeding America and much of the world.

The National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) and its more than 40 member organizations have a 35 year history of solidarity with farm workers, advocating on behalf of justice and equality for some of this country's poorest and most exploited workers. NFWM supports AgJOBS, says Executive Director Virginia Nesmith, "because we have witnessed firsthand the abuse experienced by farm workers nationwide. We know that fear of firing and deportation prevents the workers from complaining about even the most blatant of those abuses. AgJOBS is a critical step in ensuring that those who contribute to this economy are treated with the dignity and respect deserved by all of God's people. We welcome the reintroduction of AgJOBS and urge Congress and the President to act swiftly in enacting this legislation."

Attached: Statement by Arturo Rodriguez, President, United Farm Workers

FARM WORKER ADVISORS

Mr. Arturo Rodriguez, President
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