

**The Social Creed of 1908**  
**Federal Council of Churches**  
**(Now, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.)**

We deem it the duty of all Christian people to concern themselves directly with certain practical industrial problems. To us it seems that the Churches must stand---

For equal rights and complete justice for all men in all stations of life.

For the right of all men to the opportunity for self-maintenance, a right ever to be wisely and strongly safeguarded against encroachments of every kind.

For the right of workers to some protection against the hardships often resulting from the swift crisis of industrial change.

For the principle of conciliation and arbitration in industrial dissensions.

For the protection of the worker from dangerous machinery, occupational disease, injuries and mortality.

For the abolition of child labor.

For such regulation of the conditions of toil for women as shall safeguard the physical and moral health of the community.

For the suppression of the "sweating system."

For the gradual and reasonable reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest practical point, and for that degree of leisure for all which is a condition of the highest human life.

For a release from employment one day in seven.

For a living wage as a minimum in every industry, and for the highest wage that each industry can afford.

For the most equitable division of the products of industry that can ultimately be devised.

For suitable provision for the old age of the workers and for those incapacitated by injury.

For the abatement of poverty.

To the toilers of America and to those who by organized effort are seeking to lift the crushing burdens of the poor, and to reduce the hardships and uphold the dignity of labor, this council sends the greeting of human brotherhood and the pledge of sympathy and of help in a cause which belongs to all who follow Christ.

PLEASE SEE SOCIAL CREED FOR 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ON REVERSE

(THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A. RECEIVED THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY VERSION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION IN 2007 AT ITS NOVEMBER 7-9, 2006 MEETING, ALONG WITH THIS COPY OF THE 1908 ORIGINAL).