



Reverend Jim Cotter, United Methodist Church, Wisconsin Annual Conference:

If human life is sacred, then human work ought also to be sacred. If a person works with diligence and competence, it should be rewarded. Especially in a culture where there is a surplus of wealth, each person's work ought to bring in a wage that sustains life, and enables that life to be a blessing to others.

We speak of "death with dignity." A living wage provides "life with dignity."

In practical terms, what are the alternatives to a living wage?

- Parents working several jobs and never available to children, who wind up on the street,
- Criminal activity to earn needed income,
- Feelings of failure sometimes leading to suicide — this last was the experience of a

man I talked to yesterday, whose two acquaintances had committed suicide rather than face the holidays as a "failure."

Maybe the question should rather be asked: what is the justification for NOT having a living wage?