



Open Letter to the Management of Henkel Bay Point

November 14, 2017

2850 Willow Pass Rd
Pittsburg, CA 94565

To the Management of the Henkel Bay Point Facility and the Wider Community:

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. outlined the key issue in the sanitation worker strike in Memphis: human dignity. He urged faith leaders to support the struggle by marching, speaking out, organizing economic boycotts and engaging in civil disobedience. Dr. King and allied faith leaders, rightfully, used their moral authority to promote justice in the community.

In Bay Point today, the fight continues. This strike is about human dignity and protecting our rights as workers. The workers at Henkel Bay Point are fighting for respect and dignity and their right to a healthy and safe workplace. Management at Henkel has never treated them as human beings deserving of respect and dignity. Workers are treated like cogs in the Henkel machine consigned to marginal pay without a hint of respect for health or safety.

Workplace accidents, numerous injuries and the fatality of a worker in 2013, only become a concern when operations are threatened or production is deterred. For Henkel, production and profit come first, safety and respect come last.

It is every employers' duty to treat their workers with respect. The Henkel Corporation, however, ignores workers' health & safety, promotes a culture of indignation, and consistently diminishes the workers' ability to care for themselves. This is not how we are told to treat our fellow man. This is not God's plan. "Thou shalt not oppress thy neighbor, nor rob him: the wages of a hired servant shall not abide with thee all night until the morning." Leviticus 19:13 (ASV).

As faith leaders, utilizing the moral authority we hold, we are called upon to support these workers in the fight for social and economic justice. We must – and do – condemn Henkel's anti-worker practices, as we would in any corner where these acts take place. We stand ready and eager to serve the workers who have been mistreated behind Henkel's gates. The faith community stands resolute with our striking brothers and sisters. We call upon Henkel to hear the concerns of workers and immediately address their issues in the collective bargaining process.

Faithfully,

Rev. Will McGarvey, Pastor
Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg
Exec. Dir., Interfaith Council of Contra Costa

Rev. Charles Glasper Jr., Pastor
True Light Missionary Baptist Church

Senior Pastor Quentisha Davis Wiles
Pittsburg United Methodist Church

Father Robert Rien, Pastor
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church

Father Paulson Mundanmani, Pastor
Christ the King Church

Rev. Dr. Fred Weidmann, Senior Minister
Hillcrest Congregational Church UCC

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage
First Congregational Church of Antioch

Rev. Dr. Charles D. Tinsley, IV, Chaplain
Juvenile Detention System

Rabbi Dan Goldblatt
Beth Chaim Congregation

**Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman &
Cantor Jennie Chabon**
Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Cantor Hazzan Risa Wallach
Congregation B'nai Shalom

Rabbi Elisheva Salamo
Beth Chaim Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dawn Roginski, Pastor
Holy Trinity & St. Paul's Lutheran Churches

Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley, Pastor
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church

Rev. Kathryn Schreiber, Lead Minister
First Congregational Church of Martinez,
UCC

Rev. Kristin Powell, Lead Minister
Unity of Walnut Creek

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Howell, Retired
United Church of Christ