

Resolution 2010–01

Rationale:

The Southeast Michigan Synod is in a companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The ELCJHL Bishop and Pastors were co-signers of the recently published Palestine Kairos Document ([HYPERLINK "http://www.kairospalestine.ps" www.kairospalestine.ps](http://www.kairospalestine.ps)). A word of hope in a time lacking optimism, the document seeks to restore the dignity of both Palestinians and Israelis. The document calls for a variety of nonviolent forms of resistance to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Following God's requirement that we seek justice, over 70 members of this synod have visited Christians in the Holy Land, returning to speak out and to work and advocate for a political solution that will be just, secure and peaceful for both Palestinians and Israelis. Illegal Israeli settlements continue to expand and Israeli racism and oppression of the Palestinian people continue to be inflicted by current Israeli policies. Opportunities for peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict diminish with the passing of time. In frustration, increasing numbers of Christians leave the Holy Land.

Many believe that conversations about divestment, boycotts and economic measures contributed to the peaceful resolution of Apartheid in South Africa. It is possible that similar conversations may be helpful in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Resolved,

That the Southeast Michigan Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) Task Force organize a study about strategic investment decisions and their potential to draw the Israeli government into more credible peace negotiations. The task force shall present a report to the Synod Council which may include recommended actions based upon the findings.

That the 2010 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly encourages members of the synod to visit Christians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to learn about living conditions of Christians in those territories. Congregations are encouraged to invite those who have visited to witness what they have seen and heard.

That the 2010 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly urges congregations to participate in advocacy work through organizations such as Churches for Middle East Peace (cmep.org)

Submitted by:

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THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Resolutions Committee recommends adoption.