

RESOLUTION 2016-03

Resolution for Increased Advocacy for a Just peace in the Holy Land

Rationale:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine, adopted in 2005, has been successful within the ELCA in increasing awareness, expanding advocacy, and accompanying brothers and sisters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). However, there is still much work to do.

Today, the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land grows stronger and more oppressive; the use of communal punishment has expanded; the demolition of homes continues; the settlement of Israeli citizens on confiscated Palestinian land (illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention) now numbers more than 500,000 citizens; the “Separation Wall” (built mostly within Palestinian territory) continues to expand; check points within the Palestinian territory limit even the most basic movement; and, the blockade of Gaza continues.

It is time that voices within the ELCA become stronger. The three actions in the first resolve below are in keeping with the ELCA Churchwide Strategy to further the cause of justice in the Holy Land; ELCA policy on the Holy Land; and, other Churchwide Assembly actions, Church Council actions, and/or official letters and statements regarding the actions in the first resolve.

Resolved, that the Southeast Michigan Synod calls upon the Synod Church Council to request the Administration and the Congress of the United States to take the following actions related to the current status in Palestine and the State of Israel:

1. Recognize Palestine as a “state” and vote to include it in the United Nations;
2. Ensure that the State of Israel complies with the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act, which require that a country receiving U.S. financial aid and military arms, respectively, not engage in human rights violations of another people;
3. Make future U.S. financial and military aid to the State of Israel contingent on the cessation of settlement building in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and ensure that not-for-profit organizations found to be funding these settlements are in compliance with current IRS regulations regarding not-for-profit organizations;

Resolved, that the Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly requests the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod to convey this Resolution to the Administration and the Congress of the United States and to the public at large; and

Resolved, that the Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly requests the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod to convey this resolution to the congregations of the Southeast Michigan Synod and members of these congregations, and request these congregations and the members of these congregations to convey this resolution to its respective Congressional delegation.

Submitted by,
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The Resolutions Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution.