



# United Church of Christ Palestine/Israel Network

**March 6, 2017**

## **Statement re Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the United States**

The United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network has noted the sharp rise in incidents against our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers. At least 67 incidents have occurred at 56 Jewish Community Centers in 27 states and one Canadian province since the beginning of 2017, according to the National Council of Churches. Jewish institutions continue to receive bomb threats and Jewish cemeteries in three cities have been vandalized.

Similarly, the number of anti-Muslim hate groups in the United States has nearly tripled in the last year. According to a new report by the Southern Poverty Law Center, that number went from 34 groups in 2015 to 101 groups in 2016. The most recent FBI numbers show hate crimes against Muslims grew by about 67 percent in 2015. More recently mosques have been set ablaze; Muslims are being harassed and threatened.

As people of faith we refuse to be silent and tolerate this targeting of Jewish and Muslim people. We call on all people to denounce these and similar acts of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. We commit to confronting this climate of fear with voices of hope, acts of accompaniment, and expressions of solidarity with Jews and Muslims experiencing such bigotry and hate crimes.

In a society feeding on divisiveness, we affirm the unity of humanity and seek the dignity of every person, no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey, striving for peace with justice throughout God's creation.

United Church of Christ Palestine/Israel Network  
Rev. John Buttrick, Chair  
Maryn Goodson, Vice Chair