

**A CALL FOR THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TO TAKE ACTIONS TOWARD A JUST PEACE IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

Submitted by Minnesota Conference Global Partnerships Team on March 6, 2015.

1 Whereas the Global Partnerships Team of the Minnesota Conference has a particular mission  
2 “To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global partners, Global  
3 Ministries, congregations of the Minnesota Conference, and Minnesota-based mission  
4 personnel to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace;” and  
5

6 Whereas the United Church of Christ has a covenantal commitment to our Palestinian Christian  
7 partners, whose search for an alternative to violence born of hopelessness and despair has led  
8 them to author a document entitled *Kairos Palestine 2009--'A Moment of Truth': A Word of*  
9 *Faith, Hope, and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering*, as a call and summons to their  
10 global partners to engage in non-violent measures that will pressure Israel to end the  
11 Occupation; and  
12

13 Whereas the MN Conference resolved in 2005 to enter into dialogue with interfaith groups in  
14 MN and to call upon on the Corporate Social Responsibility Ministry of the United Church of  
15 Christ to guide the Pension Board and the United Church Foundation to begin the process of  
16 using economic leverage to support the creation of an economically viable Palestinian state and  
17 to oppose the continued illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank; and  
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19 Whereas in the decade since, the conflict has worsened and the cries of our Global Ministries  
20 partners have persisted, especially in the *Kairos Palestine* document; and  
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22 Whereas the Global Partnerships Team has seriously and prayerfully considered the resolution  
23 entitled “A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the  
24 Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” to be presented at the 30th General Synod of the United Church of  
25 Christ, proposing a strategy by the United Church of Christ to help end the ongoing Israeli-  
26 Palestinian conflict, combining (1) educational empowerment (2) economic leverage (divestment  
27 from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and boycott of  
28 products produced in such territories by Israeli companies); (3) political pressure (petition to  
29 Congress to ensure that aid to Israel violates neither the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act nor the  
30 U.S. Arms Export Control Act); and (4) interreligious dialogue (conversation among the three  
31 Abrahamic faiths aimed at reaching religious reconciliation and achieving political resolution)  
32 and has voted to endorse passage of this resolution;  
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34 The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference hereby RESOLVES  
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36 1) To endorse the passage of the resolution entitled “A Call for the United Church of Christ to  
37 Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” to be presented at the  
38 30th General Synod of the United Church of Christ; and for the Minnesota Conference to  
39 consider at a future Annual Meeting of its members any action (such as divestment) proposed  
40 by an Israel-Palestine resolution passed at the 30<sup>th</sup> General Synod. At that meeting a proposal  
41 for action would be presented by a working group including members of the Finance Committee  
42 and the Global Partnership Team.  
43

44 2) To call upon local congregations to engage in a 24-month period of intentional study of the  
45 Israeli occupation of Palestine and the movements for peace; to examine ways our churches  
46 can resist the structures that are inhibiting a just peace; and to build relationship with our

47 Global Ministries partners in the Holy Land, as well as interfaith and ecumenical partners in the  
48 U.S. and locally;  
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50 3) To commend Minnesota Conference leadership for continuing dialogue with Jewish and  
51 Muslim organizations, and call for Conference-wide participation in a dialogue among the three  
52 Abrahamic faiths at all levels—in particular between local congregations—in order to identify  
53 ways in which groups of congregations can work in concert to promote sacred reconciliation  
54 among all people who are affected by the conflict in the Middle East;  
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56 4) To direct the Minnesota Conference Minister to provide a report on the Conference's  
57 progress in fulfilling the goals of this resolution at the end of the period of dedicated study,  
58 action, and relationship building;  
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60 5) To direct the Minnesota Conference Minister to distribute this resolution to Minnesota  
61 Conference delegates to the 2015 General Synod as a matter of information as they consider  
62 similar resolutions at Synod.  
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#### 64 Funding

65 The funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the 62  
66 overall mandates of the implementing body or bodies, and the funds available.  
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#### 68 Implementation

69 The Board of Directors, in consultation with appropriate entities within the Minnesota 66  
70 Conference, will determine the implementing body or bodies.