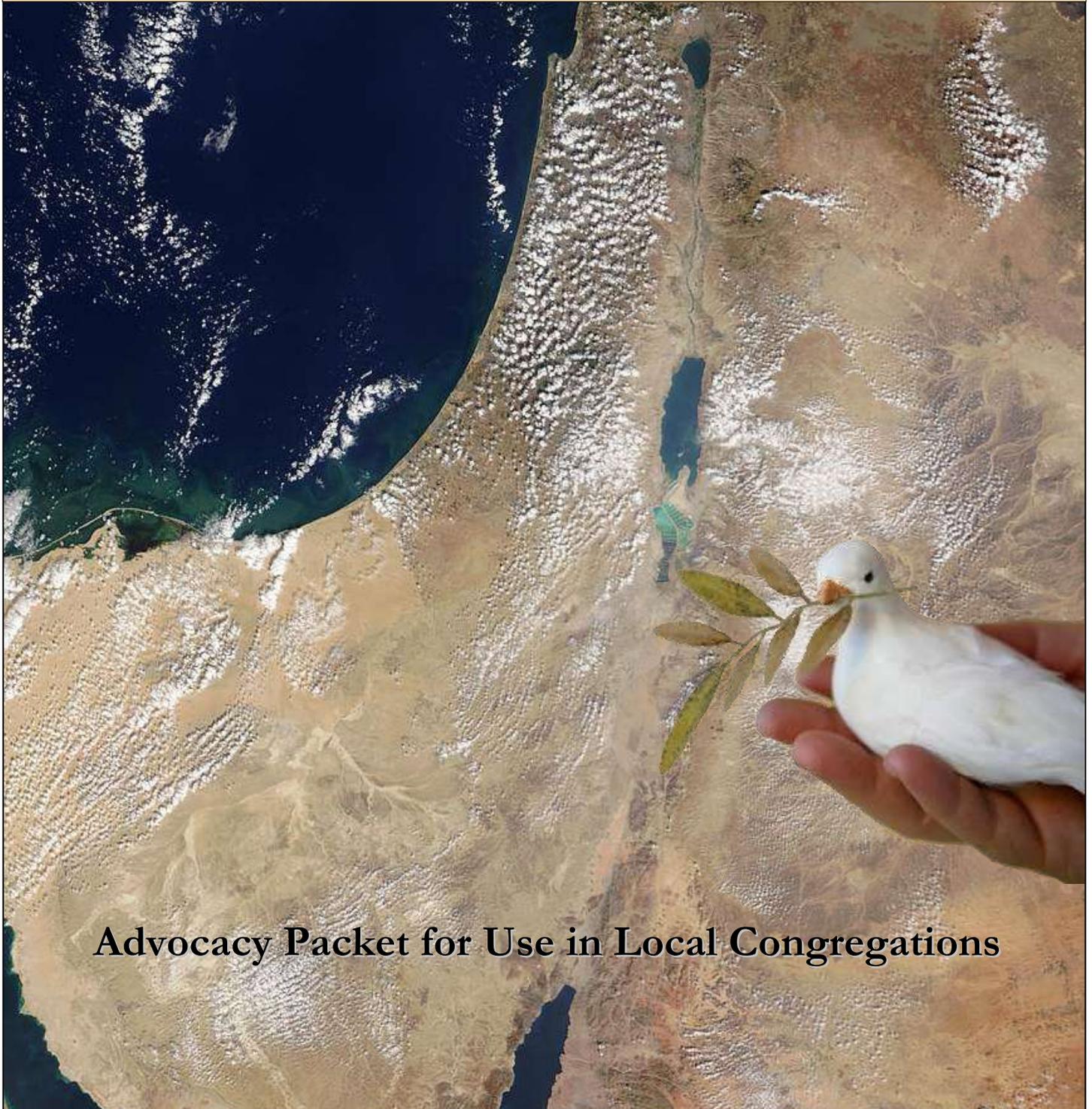


Working for a Just and Lasting Peace

in Israel and Palestine

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW • HOW YOU CAN HELP



Advocacy Packet for Use in Local Congregations



Prepared by the General Boards of Church & Society and Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church
www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/

General Boards of Church & Society and Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, 2013

This advocacy packet was created in response to 2004 General Conference Resolution #312 that states "the General Board of Global Ministries, working together with the General Board of Church & Society and interfaith organizations, develop advocacy packets for use in local congregations to promote a just and lasting peace and human rights for all in the region."

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Cover photo courtesy NASA, "Fires in the Nile Delta"
Credit Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC
<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>

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Introduction

The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness. You cannot be holy except as you are engaged in making the world a better place. You do not become holy by keeping yourself pure and clean from the world but by plunging into ministry on behalf of the world's hurting ones.

—John Wesley, Methodism's founder

Reports of the ongoing violence and suffering in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories are in the news almost daily. Often the stories lead to more questions than answers. How did the conflict and occupation start? Why does the fighting continue? How can it be resolved? What is the controversy over the settlements, the Wall? What is going on in Gaza? After seeing pictures of families grieving over lost land, homes, and loved ones you may ask, “What can I possibly do to help?”

This packet is designed to help answer your questions about the conflict and provide you with specific actions you can take to help bring about a just, lasting peace with an end to illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The packet is divided into two sections. The first section, **What You Should Know**, contains background information, maps and links to personal testimonies from people in the region, church statements, and resources for additional study. The second section, **How You Can Help**, provides detailed advocacy resources for churches and individuals.

The creation of a just peace in the region can be achieved by focusing on principles of justice and human rights. As Christians, it is important that we work to uphold the human rights of all persons. As U.S. citizens, it is important

that we recognize the influence — sometimes counterproductive — that U.S. policies and financial assistance have had on the region. For example, from 2009 to 2018, the United States is scheduled to give Israel \$30 billion in military aid. As citizens and taxpayers, we have a role in the cycle of violence and, as such, a responsibility to speak out about injustice.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be a contentious topic for local churchgoers in the United States. Strong views about the region and misinformation about the current situation can lead to heated discussions and angry confrontations. However, discussion is an important first step toward working for peace. While recognizing that disagreements will exist, it is also important to remember that it is not un-American or anti-Semitic to criticize government policies or individual actions. On the other hand, it is important to choose words carefully and not condemn a group based on the actions of a subset of that group. Using terms such as “Israeli government policies” or “militant launching a rocket attack” can be more productive than speaking in blanket terms about “Israelis” or “Palestinians.”

We must view ourselves as advocates for people — for those who have to live with the violence and daily hardships, for families who are still mourning the loss of loved ones while longing for peace and stability. By opening this packet you have already taken the first step toward becoming an advocate for peace.

Our Social Principles

United Methodist Social Principles provide important guidelines for framing our response to the conflict. Our Social Principles recognize the rights and dignity of every person on earth and our responsibility to help see that these rights are upheld.

“As individuals are affirmed by God in their diversity, so are nations and cultures. We recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just and right in its treatment of its own people, nor is any nation totally without regard for the welfare of its citizens. The Church must regard nations as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders. While recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every nation.”¹

We urge the major political powers to use their nonviolent power to maximize the political, social, and economic self-determination of other nations ... We urge Christians in every society to encourage the governments under which they live and the economic entities within their societies to aid and work for the development of more just economic orders.”²

(For more information about United Methodist Social Principles, see <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=1&mid=1686>.)

United Methodist Church Participation in the Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

On October 17, 2000, the General Board of Global Ministries directors adopted a resolution firmly based on human rights and international law calling for an end to the escalating violence and systemic human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories. It states in part, “We recognize the current popular protest is an expression of deep Palestinian frustration over the ongoing disrespect, dehumanization, and denial of their basic human and national rights by an unjust political system.”

GBGM directors called for several key actions based on longstanding United Methodist Social Principles. The call to action urged “Israel to immediately insure respect for international law” and for the U.S. government to support UN involvement of both the Security Council and the Human Rights Commission. The GBGM resolution also called for the “U.S. Government to halt the sale of new armaments to Israel; [and for] the international community to ensure that steps are taken to reduce friction, including, the removal of Israeli forces from occupied Palestinian Territories.”

In May 2001 the United Methodist Council of Bishops spoke out forcefully calling on “the U.S. government, through Congress, to use all measures possible, including the cutting off of all funding to the Israeli government, to insure that the following conditions are met: All human rights violations cease. No more Jewish settlements are built in occupied territories. All home demolitions cease.”

Since its formation in October 2001, the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation has built wider and wider support for human rights for all Palestinians and Israelis as something that is non-negotiable. The U.S. Campaign affirms that ending military occupation is a necessary precondition for a just and lasting peace. Occupation is illegal under international law and must be ended. The Campaign categorically condemns the targeting of civilians by anyone.

The U.S. government rightly condemns Palestinian attacks on civilians; however, the U.S. continues to provide financial, military and political support for Israeli attacks on civilians. It is such imbalance that the U.S. Campaign, like the United Methodist Church, seeks to end.

The U.S. Campaign embodies the core values of human rights, international law, and involvement of the UN that are all espoused by GBGM directors, the United Methodist Council of Bishops and by the General Conference resolutions pertaining to Palestine/Israel for many years.

United Methodists from a growing number of annual conferences have participated in U.S. Campaign educational and advocacy actions and the annual organizing conference. United Methodist Women, GBCS, and GBGM are member organizations of the Campaign and have contributed annually to its work.

Did you know?

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

Between 2009 and 2018, Israel is scheduled to receive \$30 billion in military aid.

In 2011, the average US taxpayer funded Israel with \$21.59 in weapons.⁹

—U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

United Methodist Resolutions and Statements

Many statements have come out of the General Conference and other bodies within the United Methodist Church regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following, are excerpts from two of these statements. For the complete text and additional statements, visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/>.

Excerpts from the 2012 General Conference Resolution, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land” (#6111)³:

The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a “Greater Israel” that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings. [...]

We urge the U.S government to end all military aid to the region, and second to redistribute the large amount of aid now given to Israel and Egypt; to support economic development efforts of non-governmental organizations throughout the region, including religious institutions, human rights groups, labor unions, and professional groups within Palestinian communities. [...]

The church continues to work with ecumenical and interfaith bodies to advocate for Palestinian self-determination and an end to Israeli occupation; to affirm Israel’s right to exist within secure borders; to affirm the right of return for Palestinian refugees under international law; to call for region-wide disarmament; to urge Israelis and Palestinians to stop human rights violations and attacks on civilians, such as targeted assassinations and suicide bombings; and to urge the U.S. government to initiate an arms embargo on the entire Middle East region.

“Saying No to Violence in Middle East Conflict” (#6113):

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has affirmed its commitment to relationship and dialogue with people of other religious traditions (“Called to Be Neighbors and Witnesses—Guidelines for Interreligious Relationships,” 2004 *Book of Resolutions*, page 252ff); and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has affirmed its commitment to relationship and dialogue with Jewish people (“Building New Bridges in Hope,” 2004 *Book of Resolutions*, page 243ff); and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has affirmed its commitment to relationship and dialogue with Muslims (“Our Muslim Neighbors,” 2004 *Book of Resolutions*, page 797ff); and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has affirmed its support for the boundaries of the State of Israel internationally recognized prior to the 1967 war in the Middle East (“United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict,” 2004 *Book of Resolutions*, page 811ff); and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has strongly stated its opposition to Israeli settlements in occupied territories (“Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land,” 2004 *Book of Resolutions*, page 787ff);

Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church continues to advocate for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians through negotiation and diplomacy rather than through methods of violence and coercion.

ADOPTED 2008

#6113, 2012 *Book of Resolutions*

See Social Principles, ¶ 165A, B, D.

There is so much information available on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that it is easy to become overwhelmed. Many scholars spend a lifetime studying this issue, so don’t expect to understand all the complexities of the issue overnight. This packet contains a few basic fact sheets and maps to get you started in your efforts to learn more about the people and the conflict. In this section, you will also find links for more background information, maps, testimonies, and a timeline. For more resources on the conflict, including books, DVDs, and Internet links, see section 4: “Additional Information.”

Did you know?

129 Israeli children were killed by Palestinians and 1,334 Palestinian children were killed by Israeli security forces between October 2000 and May 2012.⁴

—B’Tselem

2012 General Conference Updates

United Methodist Church and Kairos Palestine

The 2012 General Conference Resolution “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land” (#6111) urged all United Methodists to “read and study the ‘Kairos Palestine’ document, ‘A moment of truth: faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering,’ written by Palestinian Christians, and take up its call for nonviolent actions seeking an end to military occupation.”

The 2009 Kairos Palestine document was written by Palestinian Christians and supported by the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. Their goal was to show the world and especially the Christian community the injustices that they face on a daily basis at the hands of Israeli occupation. They are denied access to holy places, see their towns and villages turned into prisons by the separation wall, Israeli settlements ravage the natural resources of the region and they face daily humiliation at Israeli checkpoints within the Palestinian territories.

In the United States as a response to this call, organizations like United Methodist Kairos Response and Kairos USA have recently formed to advocate for this document.

To read the Kairos Palestine document itself: <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf>

United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR): <https://www.kairosresponse.org/>

Kairos USA: <http://www.kairosusa.org/>

United Methodist Church and 2010 British Methodist Church Study

It is crucial to look to what other groups from the Wesleyan tradition are doing to advocate for peace and justice in the Middle East. The 2012 General Conference Resolution “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land” “commended the 2010 British Methodist Church study, ‘Justice for Palestine and Israel’ that includes a call ‘on the Methodist people to support and engage with (a) boycott of Israeli goods emanating from illegal settlements.’”

In addition to this call for nonviolence resistance to Israeli occupation, this study also discusses the theological context of these issues, a comprehensive historical study of the region, testimonies from those on the ground, an analysis of the current human rights issues, and a list of resources to learn more.

The text of this study can be found here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/downloads/conf10a-14-pal-israel-160211.pdf>.

“Aligning UMC Investments with Resolutions on Israel/Palestine”

This statement calls upon the General Board of Pensions & Health Benefits to explore “positive economic and financial investment in Palestine.” Individuals can help in this endeavor by considering purchasing goods from Canaan Fair Trade (<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=142>) or other Palestinian companies.

United Methodists are encouraged to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights and an end to the occupation. United Methodist general boards and agencies, annual conferences, local churches and individuals are called upon to prayerfully consider corporate involvement in Israel’s occupation when making investment decisions. United Methodist general boards and agencies are also required to provide updates on their websites regarding corporate engagement with and/or divestment from companies that support the Israeli occupation and to provide a report to the 2016 General Conference on this issue.

Actions Affirmed at 2012 General Conference Related to Palestine/Israel

(*Note:* These 10 points all come from “Opposing Israeli Settlements” (#6111) resolution first adopted in 2004 and amended in 2012, and non-Disciplinary action entitled “Aligning United Methodist Church Investments with Resolutions on Israel/Palestine” adopted in 2012.)

1. **A call for international sanctions.** “We further call on all nations to prohibit: 1) any financial support by individuals or organizations for the construction and maintenance of settlements; and 2) the import of products made by companies in Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.”
2. Reaffirms longstanding call for **end to all military aid** to whole Middle East — first called for in 1968 General Conference and almost every four years thereafter.
3. Reaffirms call first made in 2004 to **redistribute U.S. military aid** now given to Israel and Egypt **towards economic development.** This is a “swords into plowshares” version of positive investment that none of the anti-divestment folks has ever mentioned or acted on!
4. Affirms and urges **nonviolent direct action of accompaniment** of groups like Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine & Israel and Christian Peacemaker Teams. See www.eappi.org, www.eappi-us.org and www.cpt.org. See also page 19 in this Advocacy Packet.
5. Urges **study of nonviolent ways of ending the occupation like Kairos Palestine.**
6. Urges **all interfaith and ecumenical dialogue work to focus on “nonviolent ways** to promote justice and peace in the Holy Land.”
7. Urges a **boycott** of “companies operating in occupied Palestinian territories,” “products made by companies in Israeli settlements” and commends the 2010 British Methodist Church call for boycott of Israeli settlement products.
8. **Mandates reporting on “corporate engagement and/or divestment efforts” by all United Methodist Church general agencies — including a report to 2016 General Conference.**
9. Invites prayerful consideration by all United Methodist individuals and entities with investments of **an investment screen to exclude** all companies involved with the Israeli occupation. This language is similar to that of the “Divestment & Sudan” resolution adopted in 2008 that led the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits of to divest from several non-U.S. companies.
10. Tasks GBGM and GBCS to work with interfaith organizations on advocacy packets to **realize all of the above.**

Key Websites

These links and more can be found on the GBCS Peace with Justice advocacy website:

Advocacy Website

<http://umc-gbcs.org/issues/peace-with-justice>

Background

- *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, Phyllis Bennis (book) 5th edition
http://www.interlinkbooks.com/product_info.php?products_id=1613&osCsid=f6d5cfe6f4affa45b5e773bf873eabb7
- U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
www.endtheoccupation.org/
- Israeli Palestinian Conflict 101 (Jewish Voice for Peace)
www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/101conflict.shtml
- UNICEF: At a Glance: Occupied Palestinian Territory
www.unicef.org/infobycountry/oPt.html
- Institute for Middle East Understanding- Background Briefings
<http://imeu.net/news/background-briefings.shtml>

Timeline

- A Timeline of the Conflict (from BBC)
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/v3_ip_timeline/html/
- PBS Point of View timeline
<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pdf/promiese/promises-timeline.pdf>
- United Methodist Holy Land Task Force timeline
<https://www.umhltf.org/TimeLine.html>

Did you know?

According to international law, it is illegal for a country to acquire territory through force.

Occupation is a temporary status: Annexation, confiscation of resources, population transfer, and destruction of personal property are all illegal under the Geneva Conventions.⁶

—U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Testimonies

The best way to find out what life is like for people in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories is to go there and talk with them in person. For those who are unable to travel to the region, however, testimonies from people in the region can help to paint a clearer picture of how their daily lives are affected by the Wall and ongoing violence.

- Children of the Nakba (Mennonite Central Committee, 2005, DVD, 26 minutes)
<https://resources.mcc.org/content/children-nakba-dvd>
- Defining the Barrier - A Washington Post Multimedia section on the Wall
www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/israel/israelFence.html
- One Family Fund: Video Gallery
<http://www.onefamilytogether.org/> (click on "Galleries" → "Video Gallery")
- Separated Families, A report by Anna Seifert, Ecumenical Accompanier, January 2005
<http://www.old-adalah.org/eng/intladvocacy/asrep1.pdf>
- Testimonies from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)
<http://eappi.org/en/news/ea-reports.html>
- Testimonies from B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
www.btselem.org/English/Testimonies/
- United Methodist Holy Land Task Force Personal Accounts
https://www.umhltf.org/Personal_Accounts.html
- UNICEF: Voices of Children in the Occupied Territories
www.unicef.org/oPt/voices_children.html (Photoessays and Frontline diaries)
- Alex Awad, UMC missionary, "O Come Ye, O Come Ye to Bethlehem"
<http://www.alexawad.org/details.php?ID=27>
- Combatants for Peace Testimonies
<http://cfpeace.org/?cat=6>
- Parents Circle-Families Forum
<http://www.theparentscircle.org/Content.aspx?ID=38>

Did you know?

In Gaza, 70% of the population is dependent on food aid from international organizations for survival.

The combination of significant distress and the long-lasting effects of rising poverty and unemployment is having an extremely negative effect on all aspects of life.⁷

—B'Tselem

Maps

- Maps from B'tselem showing the route of the separation barrier in the West Bank www.btselem.org/English/Maps/
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs www.ochaopt.org/ (click on "Map Centre")
- Israel/Palestine Mission Network Maps (including Palestinian Loss of Land 1946-2005) <http://israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/maps>
- Global Policy Forum www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/israel-palestine/occupindex.htm#maps
- Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs <http://www.passia.org/maps.htm>

Resolutions & Statements from the United Methodist Church

(For more resolutions and statements, see Section 4, "Additional Information.")

- General Conference Resolutions (see the *2012 Book of Resolutions* or www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)
 - Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land (#6111)
 - United Nations Resolution on the Israel-Palestine Conflict (#6112)
 - The Church's Response to Ethnic and Religious Conflict (#3124)
 - Holy Land Tours (#6031)
 - Saying No to Violence in Middle East Conflict (#6113)
- Council of Bishops' Statement on the Middle East Crisis <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=21&mid=1616>

Did you know?

The path of the Wall does not follow the established Green Line border between Israel and the West Bank. It juts up to 13 miles into Palestinian territory, demolishing ancient olive groves, destroying the livelihood of Palestinian farmers, and completely isolating some villages from the rest of the West Bank.⁸

-US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

Take Action!

There are several ways you can act to help bring peace and justice to all those living in the region:

PRAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get to know the people in the region• Keep them in your network of concern
GIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about specific needs• Provide direct assistance to refugees
STUDY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn all you can• Raise awareness in your church/community• Travel to the region
ENGAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach and learn through dialogue• Serve as an Ecumenical Accompanier or Christian Peacemaker in the region• Support boycott and divestment actions• Participate in "World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel"• Support nonviolent movements in Israel and Palestine
ADVOCATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join the campaigns and sign up for legislative action alerts• Contact your legislators• Write a letter to the editor• Stand up against financial support for illegal settlements and importation of settlement products• For a just and lasting peace agreement

PRAY

- Get to know the people in the region
- Keep them in your network of concern

Pray

This seems obvious. Yet, intentionality in our prayers is very important for our work of solidarity. This is more than the prayer — “let there be peace and justice in Middle East” — in Sunday morning worship. That’s a good place to begin but doesn’t go nearly far enough.

Prayer makes people part of our family, part of our network of concern. As we continue to pray for the people, the leaders, projects, our circle of concern and caring grows. Specificity in prayer helps us to connect to the human dimension and moves it from “that conflict over there.”

For example, the General Board of Global Ministries has numerous Advance projects in the region that we help support through our second mile giving. Discover what they are; find out their needs and what struggles they are facing. Find out what joys are helping keep hope alive. Get to know the projects and people and keep them close in your life of meditation and prayer.

As we seek to work for change, prayer is one of the foundations for non-violent response. For example, go to www.rememberthesechildren.org/ and get the list of all the children killed since September 28, 2000. This includes both Palestinian and Israeli children. Tragically there are hundreds of families who have lost their children to the violence of the conflict in the last 5 years. We can name them specifically in our prayers, offering our own comfort in these families’ time of grief and healing.

— Rev. Sandra Olewine, United Methodist
Liaison to Jerusalem (1996-2006)

Additional Resources:

- World Council of Churches Palestine/Israel Ecumenical Forum Resources
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/churches-in-the-middle-east/pief/world-week/resources.html>
- Sabeel Ecumenical Theology Center
<http://www.sabeel.org/>
- Friends of Sabeel
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Sabeel-North-America/126793740682727>
- Kairos Palestine
<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/>
- "Prayers for Peace in the Middle East," from the National Council of Churches
www.ncccusa.org/2003peaceprayers.html
- CMEP (Churches for Middle East Peace) Congregational Resources
<http://www.cmepe.org/content/congregational-resources>
- Prayers and other Resources for Worship for Peace in the Middle East
gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=874

The Jerusalem Prayer for World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 2012

Based on Psalms 10, 19, 37, 43, 46

God of faith, hope and love: "You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." We turn to you in the midst of displacements and dispossessions, of land-grabs, house-demolitions, the Wall, Israeli settlements, humiliations at checkpoints, separation of families, restriction of movement and residency rights. "Because you are near us we will not fear."

God of faith, hope and love: Creator of the universe, "heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands." We believe in you as a good and just God for all. Keep us steadfast and patient with our Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters. Thank you for your holy Word which is a source of life for all human beings and we pray it will not be used as a cover for injustice and oppression.

God of faith, hope and love: "Lift up your hand O God, you are the helper of the fatherless and hear the desires of the afflicted and listen to their cry." Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide us and bring us to your holy mountain, to the place you dwell." Make Jerusalem - the spiritual core of our vision and life - open to all and shared by two peoples and three religions without exclusivity. Only then will we see in Jerusalem "a new earth" and "a new humanity".

God of faith, hope and love: "You promised those who trust in you to dwell in the land." Help us to love and see your face in the enemy so we all can be liberated from hatred and injustices. We pray the day will soon come when the occupation and violence will end, and we can live together as two peoples in this land, based on respect of religion, equality, justice, freedom and pluralism.

God of faith, hope and love: "Surely you are our help, the One who sustains us." In the absence of hope you still give us hope and make us not give in to evil. Help us continue with hope in a creative, non-violent, peaceful resistance, and keep those in authority in the ways of justice and of peace, "so righteousness will shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." We commit ourselves to you who created every human being in your own image.

God of peace, accept our prayers, for the sake of our suffering and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(For more information about the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, see page 20.)

GIVE

- Learn about specific needs
- Provide direct assistance to refugees

Projects in the Region Supported by UMC Advance:

For more information about any of these projects, go to the advocacy website, www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/, or the Global Ministries Advance website at gbgm-umc.org/advance/ and search for projects in the “Middle East.” A Methodist liaison office was launched in October 2012.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Project #</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Ministry</i>
Bethlehem Bible College (capital fund)	#12017A	Middle East	Education
Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees	#14908A	Middle East	Refugees/Immigration
Hope Secondary School	#12018A	Middle East	Education
Jerusalem Church Renovation	#14907N	Middle East	Church Development
Jerusalem Princess Basma Center	#14238	Middle East	Children & Youth
Wi'am — Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center	#14910A	Middle East	Community Ministries
Sabeel Youth Program	#14909	Middle East	Children & Youth
Four Homes of Mercy Home for the Disabled	#3020711	Middle East	Disability Services
Mar Elias Peace Study Center	#3020532	Middle East	Education
Shepherd Society	#3020439	Middle East	Relief Aid
Augmenting Food Production & Income in Times of Siege: Urban Gardens	#629001	Middle East	Relief Aid
Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem	#3021661	Middle East	Education & Advocacy
Wadi Fukin Community Development Project	#3021565	Middle East	Community Development
Middle East Emergency Fund *	#601740	Middle East	Relief Aid
Middle East Recurring Fund	#10837	Middle East	Miscellaneous

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required. (Luke 12:48 NRSV)

Missionary Support:

The General Board of Global Ministries has four personnel stationed in Israel/Palestine. You may support their work through the Advance or through becoming a Covenant Congregation. For information on this program visit:

<http://www.umcmision.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Search-Results?taxid=425>.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Missionary Code</i>
Rev. Alex and Brenda Awad	East Jerusalem Baptist Church & Bethlehem Bible College	10825Z & 10826Z
Janet Lahr Lewis	Methodist Liaison Office in Israel/Palestine	14183Z
Kristen Brown	Methodist Liaison Office in Israel/Palestine	3021280

How to Donate:

You can give directly to any of these projects or missionaries through the United Methodist Church *General Board of Global Ministries Advance Giving*:

- **Online:** <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/>
- **Through Your Church:** Make your check payable to your local church. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Drop your gift in any United Methodist church offering plate or give your gift to your church treasurer, so that your church and annual conference will get Advance credit.
- **By Mail:** Make your check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Send your check to:
Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068, GPO
New York, NY 10087-9068
- **By Phone:** Credit card gifts can be accepted by phone at (888) 252-6174

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;
but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6:19-21 NRSV

STUDY

- Learn all you can
- Raise awareness in your church/community
- Travel to the region

Learn All You Can

Start with the information provided in this packet, then browse some of the additional resources (Web links, books and videos). Make a commitment to study the issues and keep up with current events (see the list of “Current News” Web sites in section 4, “Additional Information”).

Raise Awareness

Share what you have learned with others:

- **Teach** a Sunday school class
- **Organize** an informational meeting
- **Invite** representatives from Palestinian and Israeli peace and human rights groups to be speakers at your briefings
- **Talk** with family and friends
- **Suggest** a book on the topic for your book club (see *Suggested Reading List*)

Teaching Resources

- “Christians and the Middle East,” a discussion guide from Sojourners
http://store.sajo.net/product_p/dg_me.htm
- United Methodist Women’s Division: Geographic Study (2007) - Israel / Palestine
<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/work/mission-education/mission-studies/geographic-study-2007/>
- *Children of the Nakba*, Mennonite Central Committee
<https://resources.mcc.org/content/children-nakba-dvd>
(contains a Study Guide with questions for small group discussion)
- United States Institute of Peace Simulation on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
http://www.usip.org/files/resources/israeli_conflict.pdf
(contains scenarios, roles for 27-30 participants, key issues, and history of the conflict)
- Kairos USA Palestine Study Guide
<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/?q=content/information-and-resources-english>
- Palestine-Israel Justice Project Study Guide-Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
<http://palestine-israeljusticeproject.org/content/study-guide>
- Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for a Just Peace from Presbyterian Church USA
Video available online and Study Guide available for purchase here:
http://israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=9

Travel to the Region

Travel to the region is encouraged for those who are able. General Conference Resolution #6031 and Kairos Palestine provide guidelines for such trips.

'Women voices of hope'

In November 2011, a pilgrimage of peace and solidarity was sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society and the United Methodist Council of Bishops. Ten women bishops from four denominations participated: United Methodist, Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal and Christian Methodist Episcopal. "We came to the land of Jesus to stand in solidarity with women working for peace," said United Methodist Bishop Deborah Kiesey, head of the delegation. "We heard their voices, listened to their stories and came away disturbed yet hopeful." To learn more, read their "Message from Bethlehem: Women voices of hope" (<http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/women-voices-of-hope>).

6031. Holy Land Tours (excerpts from the 2012 resolution)¹⁰

For many years, some Palestinian Christians have expressed deep dismay that too many United Methodists and other Christian groups traveling to Israel/Palestine, also called the Holy Land, have missed an extraordinary opportunity for ecumenical fellowship and sharing with other followers of the Prince of Peace. Our Christian sisters and brothers indigenous to the area wonder why they are so often ignored by Christian pilgrims to the region. Why, they ask, do travelers tend to honor the inanimate stones that testify to Jesus' life and ministry while ignoring the "living stones," the indigenous Christians who represent an unbroken line of discipleship to Jesus in the land that he called home?

Travelers to this land have the opportunity to be ambassadors of unity and concern to the rapidly dwindling churches and Christians in a troubled land. They also have an opportunity to share in the vocation of peacemaking and to learn from the spiritual traditions of the churches indigenous to the Middle East. Further, they have a special opportunity to discover firsthand the realities of a region of deep meaning and vital importance to Christians, as well as to Jews and Muslims.

Therefore, The United Methodist Church ... asks the bishops, clergy, members, agencies, and congregations of The United Methodist Church, as they plan visits to the Holy Land, to devote at least 20 percent of the program time to contact with indigenous Christian leaders and to hearing the concerns of Palestinians and Israelis on the current crisis of Palestinian self-determination; [...]

[...] recommends that United Methodists planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine consult with the United Methodist liaison in Jerusalem and the Middle East Council of Churches Ecumenical Travel Office to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations and to visit United Methodist-supported mission sites; [...]

[...] expresses deep concern that evidence continues to accumulate that Christianity is dying in the land of Jesus through economic, social, and political pressures, which have greatly diminished the numbers and percentage of Christians in the Holy Land. United Methodist bishops and other organizers of Holy Land tours have a special responsibility to adhere to these recommendations to strengthen the witness of the remaining Palestinian disciples of the Living Lord; [...]

Kairos Palestine Holy Land Tourism Code of Conduct

<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/?q=content/information-and-resources-english>

Methodist Liaison Office in Israel/Palestine

For more information, contact admin@methodist-jer.org or encounter@methodist-jer.org.
<http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3021661>

Travel Opportunities:

- Current Opportunities to Visit Palestine and Israel from United Methodists' Holy Land Task Force
https://www.umhltf.org/Visit_Israel_Palestine.html
- Society for Biblical Studies
www.sbsedu.org

ENGAGE

- Teach and learn through dialogue
- Serve as an Ecumenical Accompanier or Christian Peacemaker in the region
- Support boycott and divestment actions
- Participate in “World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel”
- Support nonviolent movements in Israel and Palestine

Dialogue for Justice:

- Organize a series of discussions with local groups
- Invite other groups to your information meetings

Don’t just talk for the sake of talking. Be careful that dialogue isn’t merely a forum for letting “all sides” of an issue be heard. It’s easy to get caught up in discussion and debate and not really accomplish anything for the people of Israel and Palestine. “We must listen respectfully to differing views but also be able to be clear about our church’s stances towards Israeli government policies and Palestinian actions” (Rev. Sandra Olewine, United Methodist Liaison to Jerusalem, 1996-2006). The goals of dialogue should be to:

- **Locate Partners:** Identify groups in your community with shared values and common goals, groups that you think might be willing to work with you on education and advocacy. Don’t focus exclusively on church groups. Many secular groups — such as human rights organizations and anti-discrimination groups — can be great partners in the struggle for a just peace.
- **Educate:** Dialogue can be part of building awareness in your community. You now have the tools and the resources to intelligently discuss the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, to teach about the consequences of building the Wall, to explain why church groups are considering divestment, and to talk about the implications of international law. Share what you have learned. *“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSV)*

Resources for Dialogue

- The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (United Methodist Church) <http://www.gccuic-umc.org/>
- Interfaith Relations and Christian Living: Study and Action Suggestions (National Council of Churches) www.nccusa.org/interfaith/guidehome.html
- Books/Study Guides/Pamphlets:
 - Creating Interfaith Community Study Guide* <http://gbgm-umc.org/missionstudies/interfaith/print.html>
 - Call to be Neighbors & Witnesses* (free) gbgm-umc.org/e-store/
 - Methodist-Catholic Dialogues* (\$2) gbgm-umc.org/e-store
 - God is One — The Way of Islam* (available on Amazon, ISBN 0377001961, by R. Marston Speight)
 - For the Peace of the World: A Christian Curriculum on International Relations* (\$7.95) <http://www.nccusa.org/peace/>
- From the 2012 *Book of Resolutions*
#3141 *Called to Be Neighbors and Witnesses — Guidelines for Interreligious Relationships*

Serve as an Ecumenical Accompanier or Christian Peacemaker in the Region

... as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) or Christian Peacemaker Teams. The 2012 General Conference Resolution “Opposition to Israeli Settlements” urged United Methodists to “support, and participate in, the work of international peace and human rights organizations, such as the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT), to provide protection for Palestinians and Israelis seeking nonviolently to end the occupation.”

The EAPPI is an initiative of the World Council of Churches under the Ecumenical Campaign to End the Illegal Occupation of Palestine: Support a Just Peace in the Middle East. Its mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. Participants of the program are monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, supporting acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli peace activists, offering protection through non-violent presence, engaging in public policy advocacy and, in general, standing in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation. To learn more, visit <http://www.eappi.org/>.

Christian Peacemaker Teams was founded in the mid 1980s by the historic peace churches as a new way to express their faith around the world. In the West Bank, CPT works with Palestinian and Israeli activists to foster direct, nonviolent resistance to the occupation. CPT works to create peace by “getting in the way” of violent actors. Participants provide daily accompaniment for Palestinian schoolchildren, accompany shepherds and farmers to their fields where they are often assaulted by Israeli settlers, and monitor and intervene in other Israeli human rights abuses against Palestinians.

To learn more, visit <http://www.cpt.org/work/palestine>

Support boycott and divestment actions

A global movement to use economic tools to push for human rights in Israel/Palestine has emerged in recent years. The United Methodist Church supports a boycott of those goods made in Israeli settlements within the West Bank in General Conference Resolution #6111. Individual United Methodists can play a key role in this by personally choosing to boycott goods made in settlements.

For a list of companies who may be targeted by boycott, visit <https://www.kairosresponse.org/Boycott.html>

United Methodist views on the global boycott and divestment movements

“Why Divestment? And Why Now?” by David Wildman, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/wildman_divestment.pdf

United Methodist Kairos Response on Divestment

https://www.kairosresponse.org/GBPHB_Petition.html

United Methodist Annual Conference resolutions on divestment

https://www.umhltf.org/UM_Resolutions.html

“Seize the Mandate: Boycotting Products from Illegal Settlements.” (42-page guide compiled by United Methodist Kairos Response lists companies involved with illegal Israeli settlements and what United Methodists can do.)

<https://www.kairosresponse.org/Boycott.html>

Other statements and information on boycott and divestment

Interfaith Peace Initiative

<http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/profit.php>

Sabeel’s Call for Morally Responsible Investment

<http://www.sabeel.org/pdfs/mri.htm>

US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation Boycott and Divestment Campaigns

<http://endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=203>

“Justice requires action to stop subjugation of Palestinians” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/justice-requires-action-to-stop-subjugation-of-palestinians/1227722>

Christian Statements on Morally Responsible Investment
http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=171

World Council of Churches central committee encourages consideration of economic measures for peace in Israel/Palestine
<http://www2.wcc-coe.org/pressreleasesen.nsf/index/pr-cc-05-08.html>

Jewish Voice for Peace: Statements on Selective Divestment
<http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/content/selective-divestment>

Who Profits: The Israeli Occupation Industry
<http://www.whoprofits.org/>

Participate in “World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel”

This initiative was created by the World Council of Churches Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum in 2007 to coincide with the 40th year of Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. In 2012, events took place in 21 countries. Individuals are encouraged to pray, educate, and advocate for an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and a just peace for all in Israel and Palestine. Each year a new Jerusalem Prayer is written which churches around the world are encouraged to use. Visit the website at www.worldweekforpeace.org.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.
—Matthew 23:23-25 NRSV

ADVOCATE

- Join the campaigns and sign up for legislative action alerts
- Contact your legislators
- Write a letter to the editor
- Stand up against financial support for illegal settlements and importation of settlement products
- For a just and lasting peace agreement

Join the Campaign & Sign up for Action Alerts

Go to the Peace with Justice advocacy website to join the campaign and sign up for action alerts to keep aware of current issues and advocacy opportunities:

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/>

You can also subscribe to e-mail action alerts from any or all of the following organizations:

- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5575/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=510
The United Methodist Church General Board of Church & Society and United Methodist Women are members of CMEP
- U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation Listserv
http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/641/signup_page/join-the-us-campaign
- World Council of Churches, Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/sign-up-for-e-news.html>

Contact Your Legislators

- Write Letters
- Make Phone Calls
- Make an Appointment to talk with your legislators in person
- Organize Interfaith and Interdenominational Delegations to speak to your representative/senators
- If your representative/senators support your positions, don't forget to write Thank You Letters, expressing your support for speeches, votes, and bill sponsorship

Resources

- Aid to Israel (Information on individual US congressional districts and states)
<http://aidtoisrael.org/>
- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Church Advocacy Center
<http://www.cmep.org/content/advocacy-center>
- U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation Congressional Advocacy
<http://endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=351>

Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper is another way to speak up for those whose voices are not heard and to share what you learn about injustices and continued suffering.

- US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation Letters to the Editor resources for speaking out against US military aid to Israel
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=258>

Stand Up Against Financial Support for Israeli Settlements

The 2012 General Conference Resolution 6073 “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land” called upon United Methodists to “urge the U.S government to examine the role played by donations from tax exempt charities in support of discriminatory and other illegal aspects of Israeli settlements, and develop recommendations to ensure that tax-exempt funds do not support settlements or other violations of international law.”

According to a 2010 New York Times report, American groups have collected over \$200 million over the last decade to support illegal Israeli settlements. Some of this tax-deductible money has gone to purchases of guard dogs, bullet proof vests, and rifle scopes for settlers. US tax codes prohibit tax-exempt status for discriminatory organizations, as shown in the Supreme Court case *Bob Jones University vs. United States*, yet Israeli settlements by nature discriminate against Palestinians.

Use the advocacy information above to contact your legislators or write a letter to the editor about this important issue.

Resources

- Article from Mondoweiss on actions by Gush Shalom against settlement tax breaks
<http://mondoweiss.net/2009/08/gush-shalom-looks-to-end-all-forms-of-us-support-for-the-settlements.html>
- Summary of the issue from Electronic Intifada
<http://electronicintifada.net/content/how-us-charities-break-tax-laws-fund-israeli-settlements/10342>
- Campaign against the Jewish National Fund, an organization that has evicted Palestinians from their homes
<http://www.stopthejnf.org/>
- Statement against Jewish National Fund evictions of Palestinians by former JNF board member
<http://forward.com/articles/147766/jnf-board-member-quits-over-evictions/>
- New York Times Report on these tax exemptions
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/06/world/middleeast/06settle.html?pagewanted=all>

Be Creative

Don't be afraid to try something new. Just because an action or activity is not mentioned in this packet does not mean it won't be effective. Your church may want to organize a rally, an interfaith book club, or a benefit auction. Someone might suggest creating skits for worship, writing a blog, or taking out ads in a newspaper or on a billboard. Be open to creative ideas and pursue whatever methods will best reach the members of your church and community.

Additional Advocacy Resources

- **Grassroots Communications Toolkit.** Free 24-page resource can be downloaded from GBCS website. The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) has prepared a grassroots communications kit for local social-justice advocates. The 24-page "Grassroots Communications Toolkit" is free and can be downloaded from the agency's website:
<http://umc-gbcs.org/resources-websites/grassroots-communications-toolkit>
- **Involving Congregations in Advocacy Now (ICAN).** Advocacy resource from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America designed to help local churches develop an advocacy ministry.
<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy/Congregational-Resources/ICAN.aspx>

Legal & Tactical Guide: Palestinian Human Rights Advocacy in the U.S.

Palestine Solidarity Legal Support (www.palestinelegalsupport.org/) and the Center for Constitutional Rights have published a know-your-rights booklet for Palestinian rights activists: *Legal & Tactical Guide: Palestinian Human Rights Advocacy in the U.S.*

The guide is intended to help activists identify potential legal issues and how they might be approached. It provides basic information about individual rights in a given situation. The guide includes sections on First Amendment rights and common ways that free-speech rights are infringed, issues specific to campus activism, potential criminal charges arising from rights activism, and legal issues around boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns.

You can access the legal guide online at <http://palestinelegalsupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Legal-and-Tactical-Guide-Palestinian-Human-Rights-Advocacy-in-the-U.S.-.pdf>

Additional Links

United Methodist Organizations

- United Methodist Holy Land Task Force
<https://www.umhltf.org/>
- United Methodist Kairos Response
<https://www.kairosresponse.org/>
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=166

Christian Organizations – Palestine

- International Center of Bethlehem
http://www.annadwa.org/Con_Speeches.htm
- Sabeel Ecumenical Palestinian Liberation Theology Center
<http://www.sabeel.org/>

Christian Organizations – United States

- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
<http://www.cmepe.org/>
- Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)
<http://www.eappi.org/>
- Friends of Sabeel – North America
<http://www.fosna.org/>
- Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/churches-in-the-middle-east/pief/pief-home.html>
- Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A)
<http://israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/>
- Challenging Christian Zionism: Christians Committed to Biblical Justice
www.christianzionism.org

Human Rights

- Badil – Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
<http://www.badil.org/>
- B'tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
<http://www.btselem.org/>
- Coalition of Women for Peace
<http://www.coalitionofwomen.org/?lang=en>
- Israeli Committee Against House Demolition
<http://www.icahdusa.org/>
- Jerusalem Center for Women
<http://www.j-c-w.org/>
- Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
<http://www.pchrgaza.org/>
- Adalah-The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
<http://www.adalah.org/eng/>

- Defence for Children International-Palestine Section
<http://www.dci-palestine.org/>
- Breaking the Silence
<http://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/>
- UN Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Occupied Palestinian Territory
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MenaRegion/Pages/PSIndex.aspx>
- Human Rights Watch, Israel and the Occupied Territories
<http://www.hrw.org/middle-eastn-africa/israel-and-occupied-territories>
- Amnesty International, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/israel-occupied-palestinian-territories>

Israel Security Barrier (the Wall)

- Israel's Security Fence and Wall
http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_15.shtml
- WCC Booklet: "Security or Segregation?"
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/palestine/securityorsegregation.html>
- Machsom Watch
<http://www.machsomwatch.org/en/>
- Anarchists Against the Wall
<http://www.awalls.org/>

Environment/Land

- Applied Research Institute, Jerusalem (ARIJ)
<http://www.arij.org/>
- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC)
<http://www.pal-arc.org/>
- Palestinian Environmental NGO Network (PENGON)
<http://www.pengon.org/>
- Palestinian Hydrology Group
<http://www.phg.org/>

Development and Relief Organizations

- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Humanitarian Information in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
<http://www.ochaopt.org/>
- Relief Web
<http://www.reliefweb.int/>
- Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)
<http://www.pmr.ps/>
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian

People

<http://www.papp.undp.org/>

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)
<http://www.unrwa.org/>
- American Friends of UNRWA
<http://www.friendsunrwa.org/>

Palestinian Groups

- Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA)
<http://www.passia.org/>
- Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People
<http://www.rapprochement.org/>
- Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center (Wi'am)
<http://www.alaslah.org/>
- Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy
<http://www.miftah.org/>
- Tent of Nations
<http://tentofnations.org>
- al Shabaka — the Palestinian Policy Network
<http://al-shabaka.org>

Israeli-Palestinian Groups Working for Peace

- A Different Future
<http://www.adifferentfuture.org/>
- Combatants for Peace
<http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/>
- One Voice Movement
<http://www.onevoicemovement.org/>

Other Groups Working for Peace

- Americans for Peace Now
<http://peacenow.org/>
- American Task Force on Palestine
<http://www.americantaskforce.org/>
- Foundation for Middle East Peace
<http://www.fmep.org/>
- The Telos Group
<http://www.telosgroup.org/>

Multi-Faith Organizations

- Interfaith Peace-Builders
<http://www.ifpb.org/>
- Interfaith Peace Initiative
<http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/>
- Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace
<http://www.wiamep.org/>

- National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East
<http://www.nili-mideastpeace.org/>

Jewish Organizations

- American Jewish Committee
<http://www.ajc.org/>
- J Street
<http://www.jstreet.org>
- Jewish Voice for Peace
<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>
- Rabbis for Human Rights
<http://rhr.org.il/eng/>
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
<http://rac.org/>
- Tikkun
<http://www.tikkun.org/>

Muslim Organizations

- American Muslims for Palestine
<http://www.ampalestine.org/>
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
<http://www.cair.com/>
- Islamic Society of North America
<http://www.isna.net/>
- Muslim Public Affairs Council
<http://www.mpac.org/>

Palestinian-American Organizations

- Muslim Public Affairs Council
<http://www.mpac.org/>
- US Palestinian Community Network
<http://www.uspcn.org/>
- Palestinian Youth Movement
<http://pal-youth.org/>
- Palestine Center
<http://www.palestinecenter.org>

Student Organizations

- Students for Justice in Palestine
<http://sjpnational.org/>
- J Street U
<http://www.jstreetu.org/>

Appendix Information

Fact Sheets

Three fact sheets from the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation (www.endtheoccupation.org/) contain valuable information. They provide a brief background of the conflict, explain the status of Palestinians under occupation, explain how international law and human rights standards apply to the occupation, and illustrate how the Wall is affecting life in the occupied territories.



Fact Sheet #1: Palestine and the Palestinians. UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 — the legal basis for the Oslo Agreements — calls for Israel’s withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories based on the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. It is also against international law for an occupying power to transfer its own population into occupied territory. In the West Bank, Israel has seized 59% of the land and uses 90% of the water.



Fact Sheet #2: Ending the Occupation: It’s the Law. International law is the only universally recognized framework that applies to all people everywhere. As an impartial and objective set of standards, international law is crucial in resolving disputes without prejudice in favor of one party.



Cementing the Occupation: Israel’s Illegal Wall Puts Palestine Behind Bars. In June 2002 Israel began working on its largest construction project to date, the Wall. At completion, the Wall will be three times as long and twice as high as the Berlin Wall, trapping tens of thousands of Palestinians inside what will effectively be an open-air prison. In addition to impact that the Wall has on the mobility of the Palestinian population, it also cuts off Palestinian farmers from their agricultural land and water sources, and will have severe consequences for the natural environment.

Maps

Because land ownership and geography are such important factors in the conflict, two maps are also included in the “Appendix.” These maps show the path of the Wall, the Green Line and the locations of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. (Available online from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, www.ochaopt.org/. Click on “Map Centre.”)



The Barrier Route in the West Bank (July 2011). Shows the current and projected path of the separation barrier or Wall.



Reference Map: West Bank & Gaza Strip (October 2005). Shows the location of Israeli settlements and areas of control under the Oslo Agreements

Geneva Initiative Myths and Facts

In 2003, members of civil society along with representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian governments negotiated a potential comprehensive peace settlement, including even controversial issues like Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. The Geneva Accord did not become ratified by the Israeli or Palestinian governments but is often referred to as a potential peace plan. The Geneva Initiative has published a list of talking points for peace advocates which dispel commonly heard myths about the issue. It is available here: <http://www.genevaaccord.org/mainmenu/myths-facts-about-the-peace-process>.

Additional Resolutions & Statements

Christian Ecumenical Statements

- National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA: "Barriers Do Not Bring Freedom," 2005
<http://www.fosna.org/content/barriers-do-not-bring-freedom-national-council-the-churches-christ-usa>
- World Council of Churches: Policy on Israel/Palestine
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/churches-in-the-middle-east/pief/world-week/resources.html>
- Additional Ecumenical Statements
<http://www.cmep.org/content/christian-and-interfaith-statements>
- World Council of Churches Amman Call
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/middle-east-peace/the-amman-call.html>
- World Council of Churches Bern Perspective
<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/public-witness-addressing-power-affirming-peace/middle-east-peace/bern-perspective.html>

Palestinian Christian Churches

- Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center Statements
<http://www.sabeel.org/statements.php>
- Kairos Palestine Document
<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/>

Jewish Organizations

- Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: "Demolishing Homes, Demolishing Peace"
<http://icahdusa.org/multimedia/Demolishing-Homes-Demolishing-Peace.pdf>
- Jewish Voice for Peace: "U.S. Military Aid and Israel"
http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_17.shtml
- Union for Reform Judaism Resolution: "Unilateral Withdrawals, Security Barriers, and Home Demolitions: Striving for Security and Peace for Israel and the Middle East," June 2004
http://rac.org/_kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item_id=930&destination=ShowItem

Muslim Organizations

- Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) Position Statements
<http://www.mpac.org/publications/policy-papers.php>
- Islamic Society of North America: "ISNA Denounces Terrorism in the Name of Islam" (May 2004)
<http://www.isna.net/articles/Press-Releases/ISNA-Denounces-Terrorism-in-the-Name-of-Islam.aspx>

Interfaith Statements

- National Interreligious Leadership Initiative Statements
http://www.nili-mideastpeace.org/nili_advocacy
- Interfaith Peace Initiative Principles
<http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/principles.php>

African-American Community Statements

- Letter to Black America on Palestinian Rights and June 10th March and Rally
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/modinput4.php?modin=105>
- Interfaith Peace-Builders African Heritage Delegations to Israel/Palestine
<http://www.ifpb.org/africanheritage/default.html>
- US Campaign to End Israel Occupation, Black America and Palestine Intersections
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=184>

- Interfaith Peace-Builders Support of Palestinian Rights
<http://www.ifpb.org/africanheritage/statement.html> and video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoi95xUvKNo>

Latino/a Community Statements

- University of Arizona Concrete Connections/Conexiones Concretas Manifesto
<http://www.nomoredeaths.org/University-of-Arizona-NMD/manifesto-wall-to-wall-concrete-connections-conexiones-concretas.html>
- North American Conference on Latin America article, "Palestine-Mexico Border"
<http://nacla.org/blog/2012/6/29/palestine-mexico-border>
- Movimiento Estudiantil Chican@ de Aztlán endorses boycott, divestment, sanctions
<http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/maureen-clare-murphy/land-day-and-cesar-chavez-day-latin-youth-association-endorses>

UN Security Council Resolutions

"The United Methodist Church calls upon the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to accept the authority of Security Council resolutions to refrain from vetoing resolutions, and abide by Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as all other relevant UN resolutions and International Court of Justice rulings, that provide a framework for bringing this conflict to a just and permanent end."

— 2012 UMC General Conference Resolution #6112, "United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict"

UN resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

- UN News Centre Web site on the Middle East (links to Security Council and General Assembly resolutions pertaining to the region)
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=70&Body=Palestin&Body1=>
- U.S. Vetoes of Security Council Resolutions
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/membship/veto/vetosubj.htm>

Key Proposed Peace Plans

- 2002 Arab Peace Plan
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/1844214.stm
- 2003 Geneva Initiative
<http://www.geneva-accord.org/>
- 2003 Roadmap to Peace
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-05-25-peace-points_x.htm

DVDs / VIDEOS

Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall, Peter J. Nagle (2005)

Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRgrp4hsnbc>

Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iI8Dg3u0Smw>

Nagle acknowledges that the conflict in the West Bank is complex, a situation that cries out for responses that are not simply “pro-Israeli” or “pro-Palestinian.” Nagle views the building of the Wall as counter-productive to the quest for peace and security, since by many accounts it is a strategy of land acquisition. “Confiscating people's land unnecessarily,” he asserts in the film, “cannot possibly lead to peace.”

Searching for Peace in the Middle East, Landrum Bolling (2006, 30 minutes)

Contact info@fmep.org to receive a free copy or watch it online through Google Video at

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5019069779131312650>

This 30-minute film, sponsored by the Foundation for Middle East Peace, is a vivid, compassionate portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through the voices of Israeli and Palestinian citizens of diverse backgrounds, it reveals their hopes and fears and explores the issues that divide them. It also describes in a compelling way a broad common ground of yearning for peace, pointing the way toward a resolution of this tragic conflict that would meet the deepest needs of both societies.

Christians of the Holy Land (2012, 14 minutes)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7406228n>

This important 60 Minutes Report from CBS explains the current living conditions of Christians living in the Holy Land and how their lives and ability to worship have been negatively impacted by the occupation. Authors of the Kairos Palestine document explain their struggles and their actions in non-violent resistance. Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren also elaborates on the Israeli government point of view.

Budrus, Just Vision (2009, 70 minutes)

<http://www.justvision.org/budrus>

This truly inspirational and award winning documentary follows the nonviolent resistance to the building of the separation barrier in the Palestinian village of Budrus. The villagers learn to work together, men and women, members of Fatah and Hamas, and with Israeli activists to nonviolently stand up to the wall.

Churches for Middle East Peace guide to the film:

<http://www.cmep.org/content/budrus-create-discussion-take-action-peace>

Julia Bacha, director and producer of Budrus, on nonviolent resistance:

http://www.ted.com/talks/julia_bacha.html

Christ at the Checkpoint 2012 Conference Videos

“I am a Palestinian Christian” “The Checkpoint” “The Separation Barrier” “The Tent of Nations”

“The Importance of Christian Peacemaking”

<http://vimeo.com/christatthecheckpoint/videos>

Home Front: Portraits from Sheikh Jarrah (Just Vision, 2011, 4 8-minute videos)

<http://www.justvision.org/homefront>

In the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah settlers have begun violently removing Palestinian families from the homes they legally own and have lived in for more than 50 years. These short films look at how Israeli activists and Palestinians have come together to nonviolently resist these evictions and work to end the occupation.

Suggested Reading

(An excellent source for discount price books is *Americans for Middle East Understanding*, <http://www.ameu.org>)

Christians in the Middle East/Palestine

The Arab Christian in the Middle East, Kenneth Cragg, 1991.

Deals perceptively with Arab Christians living in the Middle East. Cragg discusses pre-7th-century Christianity, the effects of the rise of Islam, the influence of Greek and Latin Christianity, the effects of Western attitudes toward the region as expressed in crusades, and the problems of survival and self-fulfillment. (Louisville: Westminster-John Knox Press, 1991; London: Mowbray, 1992.)

Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble, Mitri Raheb, 2004.

This book highlights hope in the time of trouble, focusing on the siege of Bethlehem in April/May 2002. (Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press.)

Children of Biblical Lands, 2005.

Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, and Israel, four lands described in the Bible, are locations of stories about young people today. Read about children living with war and deprivation, but also living with hope and dreams for their future. (General Board of Global Ministries, available from <http://www.cokesbury.com/>.)

Christ at the Checkpoint: Theology in the Service of Justice & Peace (Pentecostals, Peacemaking & Social Justice). Alexander, Paul, ed. Wipf & Stock Pub: 2012.

Dying in the Land of Promise, Don Wagner, 2001. (Melisende, 300 pp.)

I am A Palestinian Christian, Mitri Raheb, 1995. Raheb, a Christian pastor in Bethlehem, explores the recent history of the Palestinian Christians, and the complex meeting of the world's three major monotheistic religions. (Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press.)

I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace & Human Dignity. Abuelaish, Izzeldin. Walker & Co. 2012.

Mornings in Jenin: A Novel. Abulhawa, Susan. Bloomsbury, 2010.

Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation, Naim Ateek, 1989.

This captivating bestseller by a clergyman and leader of the Palestine Christian community examines the problems and prospects for Palestinians, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.)

We Belong to the Land, Elias Chacour with Mary E. Jansen, 2001. (University of Notre Dame Press) <http://undpress.nd.edu/book/P00710>

Impact of Religious Fundamentalism on the Conflict

Anxious for Armageddon: A Call to Partnership for Middle Eastern and Western Christians, Donald Wagner, 1995. (Herald Press, 272 pp.)

Challenging Christian Zionism. Ateek, Naim, Cedar Duaybis and Maurine Tobin (eds). London: Melisende, 2005.

Christian Zionism: Road Map to Armageddon. Sizer, Stephen. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Forcing God's Hand: Why Millions Pray for a Quick Rapture — And the Destruction of Planet Earth, Grace Halsell, 1999.

This is an enlarged new edition of Grace Halsell's last book. This edition includes a transcript of CBS 60 Minutes program "Zion's Christian Soldiers," aired October 6, 2002, and additional articles on the subject written by the author; explores the new religious doctrine sweeping America, said to constitute the fastest growing movement in Christianity today. *Forcing God's Hand* explains the popularity of this End Time doctrine. (Crossroads International Publishing, 132 pp.)

Jesus & the Land: The New Testament Challenge to "Holy Land" Theology. Burge, Gary M. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel, Israel Shahak and Norton Mezvinsky, 1999.

Provides a thorough assessment of fundamentalism in modern Israel. The authors trace the history and development of Jewish fundamentalism, examining the various different strains, and identify the messianic tendency as the most dangerous. (London: Pluto Press, 176 pp.)

More Desired than Our Own Salvation: The Roots of Christian Zionism. Smith, Robert O. Oxford University Press, 2013.

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation. Rossing, Barbara. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004.

Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam, John L. Esposito, 2002.

One of America's foremost experts on contemporary Islam seeks to correct popular misconceptions about this faith. A professor of religion and international affairs and director of the Center for Muslim-Christian

Understanding at Georgetown University, Esposito does an admirable job of explaining sociopolitical and cultural developments in the Muslim world in a fashion that is easily accessible to non-specialist readers. (Oxford University Press, 196 pp.)

History of Israel/Palestine Conflict

Blood Brothers. Chacour, Elias and David Hazard. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 2003

Burning Issues: Understanding and Misunderstanding the Middle East — a 40-Year Chronicle, Jane Adas, John Mahoney, and Robert Norberg (Editor), 2006.

Nineteen authors, mostly Americans with first-hand experience in Occupied Palestine, examine the ideological genesis of the Israeli state and detail the moral, economic, and political costs — both foreign and domestic — that Americans pay every day for their uncritical support of a problematic ally. (Americans for Middle East Understanding.)

Challenging Empire. Ateek, Naim, Cedar Duaybis and Maurine Tobin (eds). Jerusalem: Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, 2012.

The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine. Pappé, Ilan. Oxford: One World Publications, 2007.

Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews & the Search for Peace in the Holy Land. Braverman, Mark. Texas: Synergy Books, 2010.

The Forgotten Palestinians: A History of the Palestinians in Israel. Pappé Ilan. Yale, 2011.

The General's Son; Journey of an Israeli in Palestine. Peled, Miko and Alice Walker. Just World Books, 2012.

A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples, Ilan Pappé, 2003.

Pappé is an Israeli historian who tackles the complex history beginning in the late 19th century up till the end of the 20th in a very readable form. (Cambridge University Press.)

The Holocaust Is Over; We Must Rise From Its Ashes. Burg, Avraham. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood. Khalidi, Rashid. Beacon, 2006.

The Iron Wall: Israel & the Arab World, Avi Shlaim, 2000.

A comprehensive examination of the “Arab question”: how the Zionist movement should deal with the Arab population of Palestine and, secondarily, with the Arab world at large. Shlaim follows the question from the first days of Zionism to the present. His title comes from the “Iron Wall” strategy promulgated in the 1920s: to deal with the Arabs from a position of unassailable strength. While intended to yield to a stage where Israel, strong enough, could negotiate a satisfactory settlement with the Arabs, Shlaim documents why Israel has been unable — or unwilling — to move to this end. (WW Norton & Co., Paperback, 704 pp.)

The Middle East, Tenth Edition, 2005.

The Middle East has been a staple text in most college courses on the modern Middle East for years, and is an essential part of most academic and public library collections. Major revisions in this 10th edition make this volume an even more important component of library collections that serve patrons interested in this crucial region of the world, whether for research or personal interest. *The Middle East* devotes half of its coverage to key thematic topics and the other half to in-depth discussions of individual countries in the region. Updates to the 10th edition include an updated chapter on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the impact of Yasir Arafat's death and updated discussions of the Middle East policies of the Bush administration, including the U.S. push for democratization in the region. (CQ Press, paperback, 641 pp.)

A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation. Ateek, Naim. New York: Orbis Books, 2008.

Palestine in Israeli School Books: Ideology & Propaganda in Education. Peled-Elhanan, Nurit. I.B. Tauris, 2012.

Palestinian Memories: The Story of a Palestinian Mother & Her People. Awad, Alex. Bethlehem, 2008.

Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope & Empowerment. Qumsiyeh, Mazin B. Pluto, 2011

Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, Phyllis Bennis, Olive Branch Press, 2012.

Organized as a set of frequently asked questions, this primer discusses not only the history of the conflict but the current situation and the implications of U.S. foreign policy. (Trans-Arab Research Institute, Inc., 82 pp.) (Available online at <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>. Click on “Resources”)

Whose Promised Land? Colin Gilbert Chapman, 2002.

Unravels the complex issues surrounding the continuing crisis between Israel and Palestine. This fully revised and updated edition, including new chapters on Zionism, Christian Zionism, and dispensationalism, provides an evenhanded approach that seeks to present an honest appraisal of modern Israel while clearly delineating the inter-related issues surrounding the crisis in the Middle East. (Collin Chapman Baker Book House.)

Current Views on Israel/Palestine Crisis

The Biblical Text in the Context of Occupation: Towards a New Hermeneutics of Liberation. Raheb, Mitri, ed. Bethlehem: Diyar Publishing, 2012.

The Crisis of Zionism, Peter Beinart, 2012.

In *The Crisis of Zionism*, Peter Beinart lays out in chilling detail the looming danger to Israeli democracy and the American Jewish establishment's refusal to confront it. He offers a fascinating, groundbreaking portrait of the two leaders at the center of the crisis: Barack Obama and Benjamin Netanyahu. These two men embody fundamentally different visions not just of American and Israeli national interests but of the mission of the Jewish people itself. Beinart concludes with provocative proposals for how the relationship between American Jews and Israel must change, and with an eloquent and moving appeal for American Jews to defend the dream of a democratic and Jewish state before it is too late. (Times Books, 304 pp.)

Drinking the Sea at Gaza, Amira Hass, 1999.

In 1993, Amira Hass, a young Israeli reporter, drove to Gaza to cover a story- and stayed, the first journalist to live in the grim Palestinian enclave so feared and despised by most Israelis that, in the local idiom, "Go to Gaza" is another way to say "Go to hell." Hass reflects on what she has seen in Gaza's gutted streets and destitute refugee camps. (Metropolitan Books, 352 pp.)

Christians & a Land Called Holy: How We Can Foster Justice, Peace, and Hope, Charles P. Lutz and Robert O. Smith, 2006.

Fair-minded and sympathetic to Jewish, Muslim, and Christian concerns, Lutz and Smith provide a clear account of the Israeli-Palestinian situation and a compelling plea for Christian involvement in the area. Carefully sorting out the tangled historical and religious roots of the problems, they reveal the strong forces at work in the conflict and lay out the driving biblical notions of election and covenant, the historical causes of the bitter and divisive clashes of the last 50 years, the complex demographic and political issues today, how Palestinians, particularly Christians, have been affected by the turmoil, and how, finally, Christians must engage the future of justice and peace. Includes maps and 12 black-and-white photos. (Fortress Press, 168 pp, paperback.)

Disappearing Palestine: Israel's Experiments in Human Despair. Cook, Jonathan. Zed Books, 2008.

The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After, Edward Said, 2001.

In 50 essays, most of which were originally published in the *Cairo Abram Weekly* and London's *al-Hayat*, Said offers a bleak and somewhat cynical view of the Middle East peace process since Oslo. Deeply concerned with the fate of the Palestinian people, and without mincing words, Said probes their relationship to the Israeli government and their lives under Arafat's Palestinian Authority. He skewers the Oslo Agreements, arguing that Palestinians merely surrendered to the Israelis, as well as the Palestinian Authority and Arafat. (Knopf.)

Gaza in Crisis: Reflections on Israel's War Against the Palestinians. Chomsky, Noam and Ilan Pappé. Haymarket Books, 2010.

The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights. Barghouti, Omar. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2011.

Kairos for Palestine. Kassir, Rifat Odeh. Palestine: Badayl/Alternatives, 2011.

The Land of Promise: Biblical, Theological and Contemporary Perspectives, Philip Johnston (Editor), 2000.

A selection of essays aptly chosen to help Christians better understand and come to terms with the contemporary meaning of God's biblical promise to Abraham; all the writings featured within share a desire to understand Scripture and how it applies today. It is a sober, thought-provoking collection. (Peter Walker, InterVarsity Press, 240pp.)

The Lemon Tree. An Arab, a Jew, & the Heart of the Middle East. Tolan, Sandy. Lansbury, 2007.

Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks. Zaru, Jean. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

Obstacles to Peace. Halper, Jeff. 3rd edition. Palestine Mapping Center, 2005.

The Other Israel: Voices of Refusal and Dissent, Roane Carey & Jonathan Shainin (eds.), 2002.

Writings by Israelis challenging the failed policies of the Sharon government and the continuing occupation of Palestinian land. The collection features essays on the movement to refuse military service in the occupied territories, the security ramifications of Israel's "War on Terror," and the damaging effect of occupation on civil society within Israel. (New Press, Hardcover, 208 pp.)

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, Jimmy Carter, 2006.

In this book President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism. (Simon & Schuster, 288 pp.)

Reporting from Ramallah: An Israeli Journalist in an Occupied Land, Amira Hass, 2003.

Culled from her dispatches during the past five years, these pieces offer a three-dimensional portrait of the daily experiences of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. The early pieces, written while serious peace talks were being conducted in the late 1990s, show the roots of the current violence: most notably, Palestinians' frustration that the Oslo peace accords hadn't produced many tangible results. But what distinguishes this book is its emphasis on the personal—and how the conflict has created a logic that has driven both sides to violence. (MIT Press.)

The Statehood of Palestine: International Law in the Middle East Conflict. Quigley, John B. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Through the Eyes of the Victims: The Story of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Alex Awad, 2002.

Alex and Brenda Awad serve as GBGM Mission Personnel in Bethlehem. (Bethlehem Bible College, Bethlehem, 118 pp.)

Walking Palestine: 25 Journeys into the West Bank. Szepesi, Stefan. (foreword by Raja Shehadeh). Interlink Pub., 2012

Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories. Baltzer, Anna. Paradigm, 2007.

U.S. Foreign Policy in Relation to the Conflict

The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977, Gershom Gorenberg, 2006.

A dramatic story featuring the giants of Israeli history — Moshe Dayan, Golda Meir, Levi Eshkol, Yigal Allon — as well as more contemporary figures like Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Gorenberg also shows how the Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations turned a blind eye to what was happening in the territories, and reveals their strategic reasons for doing so. Drawing on newly opened archives and extensive interviews, Gorenberg reconstructs what the top officials knew and when they knew it, while weaving in the dramatic first-person accounts of the settlers themselves. (Times Books, Hardcover, 480pp.)

Deliberate Deceptions: Facing the Facts about the U.S.-Israeli Relationship, Paul Findley, 1995.

Through well-documented research the author refutes the myths of U.S.-Arab-Israeli relations since 1948. He warns that the U.S. has undermined its vital interests and weakened its position of professed commitment to the rule of law and respect for human rights. (American Educational Trust, Paperback, 326 pp.)

Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians, Noam Chomsky and Edward W. Said, 1999.

First published in 1983, *Fateful Triangle* is a comprehensive indictment of what Noam Chomsky calls the “disgraceful and extremely dangerous” policy the United States has enacted towards Israel, particularly with regard to Israel's actions concerning the Palestinians. (South End Press Classics Series, 2nd edition)

The Israel Lobby & U.S. Foreign Policy. Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M Walt. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

The Peace Process. Safieh, Afif. Saqi Press, 2011.

Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Ruebner, Josh. NY: Verso Books, 2013.

Miscellaneous

Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years, Israel Shahak, 1994.

Shahak, who came to Israel in 1945 after surviving the concentration camp in Belsen during the Holocaust, contends that the potential for Israel's right-wing Jewish religious movements to seize power represents a threat to the peace of Israel and to the Zionist movement. He posits that Israel as a Jewish state constitutes a danger not only to itself and its inhabitants, but to all Jews and to all other people and states in the Middle East. (Pluto Press, 1994, 127 pp.)

Palestine and Palestinians. Alternative Tourism Group. Beit Sahour, 2003.

Palestine, Palestinians & International Law, Francis Anthony Boyle, 2003.

This book provides a comprehensive survey of the international legal principles related to the Palestinian struggle for self-determination: starting with the League of Nations awarding the Mandate for Palestine to Britain after the First World War; through the partition of the Palestine Mandate by the United Nations after the Second World War; to the Palestinian Declaration of an Independent State of their own in 1988; to the diplomatic recognition of the Palestinian State by about 130 other states; through the United Nations granting the State of Palestine all the rights of a UN Member State except the right to vote, etc. (Clarity Press.)

Other Book Lists

- Booklist from Jewish Voice for Peace
<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/booklist.shtml>
- Booklist from New York Times Arts Beat
<http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/reading-list-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/>
- Interfaith Peace Initiative Reading List
<http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/books.php#books>

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² From Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-2016, © 2012 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission. 165B. National Power and Responsibility

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⁵ <http://old.btselem.org/statistics/english/Casualties.asp>

⁶ http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/fact_sheet_2.pdf

⁷ http://www.btselem.org/annual_report_2011/130900

⁸ http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/wall_factsheet.pdf

⁹ <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=3014>

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